



MUGatHOME Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the MUGatHOME program?

- ✓ MUGatHOME is a new garden program for Boston residents with yards, rooftops, decks and other small spaces.
- ✓ It is the place to learn how to beautify your landscape and design a garden for your space and how to grow the plants you want.
- ✓ It is sponsored by Boston Natural Areas Network (BNAN).

2. Will I experience some hands-on planning and gardening during the program?

- ✓ YES!

3. What will I learn about gardening?

You will learn:

- ✓ How plants do what they do and why
- ✓ How to test and amend urban soil
- ✓ How to create a design for your garden space
- ✓ Organic vegetable gardening techniques
- ✓ Organic lawn management techniques
- ✓ Keys to plant selection and care
- ✓ How to avoid and safely (no chemicals) manage pests (insects, plant disease, and weeds)

4. What is the benefit of having a garden?

- ✓ Gardening is great physical exercise
- ✓ Green spaces reduce levels of stress (contact with green spaces has been shown to relieve symptoms of ADD and improve brain functions such as concentration and memory)
- ✓ Good landscaping increases the value of residential property
- ✓ Gardens benefit the neighborhood and city by improving air quality, reducing urban heat island and keeping city temperatures down, and controlling storm water runoff

5. Do I qualify to be part of the course?

Yes, if you are:

- ✓ A resident of Boston
- ✓ Interested in what makes things grow
- ✓ Willing to get dirty, and
- ✓ Able to communicate your garden knowledge to others

6. When and where will the course take place?

- ✓ Seven Saturdays in the Spring (in 2010, April 3 through May 15)
- ✓ 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.(with a half-hour break for lunch)
- ✓ at Northeastern University and nearby gardens and parks

7. How much does the course cost?

- ✓ No fee!
- ✓ The course is “learn and serve course”
- ✓ Volunteer service is required instead of fee

8. What would I do as a volunteer?

- ✓ After taking the 35-hour course, gardeners will contribute 35 volunteer hours
- ✓ Volunteers will support one another and other gardeners by offering horticultural information and helping to put on gardening events in the city (it might mean helping another gardener do a soil test or volunteering at one of BNAN’s plant swaps)
- ✓ The 35 hours of volunteer service may be spread over the one-year period following completion of the course. (It sounds like a lot, but it’s over very quickly)

9. What kinds of support does the MUGatHOME program provide?

- ✓ MUGatHome participants will have expert help on their garden plans
- ✓ Participants of the MUGatHOME course will receive expert guidance to assess their plots and choose appropriate plants
- ✓ Participants will be eligible for a free tree
- ✓ If the site has enough sunlight for vegetables, participants may receive a free raised bed for vegetables

10. What does Boston and its gardening community get from it?

- ✓ You will become part of a vital corps of volunteers assisting gardeners in your neighborhood and gardeners at special events
- ✓ You will be part of a group of urban stewards, informed about environmentally sound practices and willing to help make Boston a greener city

11. How do I apply and when are the applications due?

- ✓ The MUGatHome application is on BNAN’s website in pdf format:
<http://www.bostonnatural.org/MUGatHome.htm>
- ✓ Call BNAN to have an application mailed to you
- ✓ Complete the application and mail to: BNAN c/o Stewardship Manager, 62 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02110-1008 or fax to BNAN 617-542-0383
- ✓ The application is due March 5, 2010.
- ✓ For more information contact BNAN at 617-542-7696 or email info@bostonnatural.org