



# HOLLISTER HOUSE GARDEN

## Dig Into Gardening Course Outline

### SESSION 1:

**Plant Parts & Soil Science for Gardeners:** Knowledge of how plants live and grow is the basis for understanding and applying the skills that follow. Prepare to be fascinated as we look at the structure and physiological processes of plants and their relationships to the settings in which they grow. You will learn to care for the entire plant by attending to both roots and shoots. We will examine different types of soil and explore the incredible soil-food web to understand how plants nourish themselves.

### SESSION 2:

**Plant Selection & Planting / Mulching, Watering & Feeding:** Today we learn how to correctly apply the adage *right plant in the right place!* A plant will live up to its full potential only when grown in the conditions for which it is best suited. Unlock the secrets of selecting plants that will thrive in your garden by learning to properly assess your site's sun exposure and soil conditions. Learn the correct way to plant for optimal root development. After lunch, we take a deep dive into plant care. How and why do we use different types of mulch? How does water work in the soil? When do you water and what are the best ways to irrigate? Do you need to fertilize your plants and, if so, what should you use? Build your ecological gardening mindset by learning to balance nature and nurture.

### SESSION 3:

**Propagation / Pruning / Weeding, Pests & Disease:** Today have some fun learning to plant seed trays like a pro. Then we will practice propagating plants via root cuttings and learn how to properly divide perennials. Root cuttings and division are an easy way to increase your plant inventory - for free! After lunch, lose your fear of pruning with hands-on practice of pruning techniques. Finally, we take a necessary trip to the dark side of gardening - weeds, pests and disease. In this segment, you will learn the important distinction between seed weeds and root weeds and why each type needs to be handled differently. You will become familiar with common pests and diseases that gardeners in our area face. Learn how to identify these potential issues early and what actions to take to ensure a healthy and productive garden.

#### ***Required text:***

*The New Gardener's Handbook*, Daryl Beyers. You may purchase a copy in advance or at the first class.

#### ***Materials needed:***

Note taking materials, lots of questions, and a sense of humor!

At the conclusion of this workshop, you can be confident that you now have the knowledge and skills you need to grow the garden you have always wanted. Celebrate the joy of gardening! For many it becomes a life-long passion.