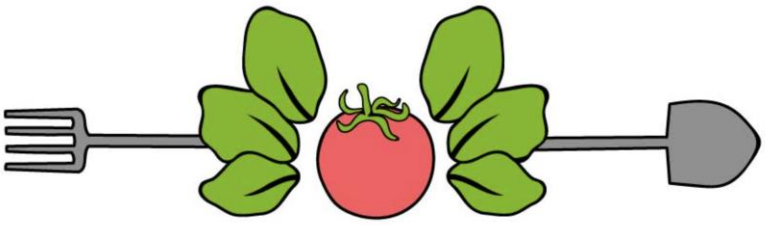
Edible Evergreen

The Evergreen State College

Spring 2026



Earth Care, People Care, Fair Share

Faculty:
Krisztina Mosdossy: krisztina.mosdossy@evergreen.edu
Steve Scheuerell: scheuers@evergreen.edu
Cynthia Kennedy: kennedyc@evergreen.edu

Weekly Schedule (with exceptions):**

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
9 am-noon Sem 2 E1107 *Workshop/ seminar*	**9 am-noon** Organic Farm (outdoors) *Farm and Garden Practicum*	**9 am-noon** Sem 2 E1107 OR Lab I 1040/1050 *Soil ecology and bionutrient economy*	**9 am-noon** Organic Farm (outdoors) *Farm and Garden Practicum*	Study time
	Noon- 1:00 Lunch		Noon- 1:00 Lunch	
Study time	**1-4 pm** Sem 2 E1107 *Growing Plants and Permaculture*	Study time	**1-4 pm** Organic Farm (outdoors, or in the Farmhouse) *Group Project time*	Study time

** Exceptions (field trips!) - Please arrange your schedules to be gone from campus from early morning until the end of the day on the following dates:

- Week 2 – Tuesday, April 7 – Seattle University Edible Campus and Beacon Food Forest
- Week 5 – Tuesday, April 28 – Port Townsend Composting Facility
- Week 6 – Tuesday, May 5 – Portland: One Green World Nursery and Kailash Ecovillage

What is this program about?

Spring quarter of the Edible Evergreen program will center students in the management of the campus organic farm, community gardens, and food forests as we plan for and initiate the new growing season. The program is designed to teach the theory and practice of community and participatory management structures which will require students to work collaboratively and professionally across the class and beyond. Successful participation will require students to learn systems thinking frameworks and technology tools for efficient collaboration including Microsoft 365 applications, Canvas, and other digital and social media. These tools will augment (not replace) in-person collaboration where students will work within and across teams focused on supporting the research, planning, and operational management of the campus organic farm, community gardens and food forests.

Spring quarter will include economic botany, with an exploration of our relationship to common farm and garden plants, plus aboveground (pollinators and "pests") and belowground (the soil food web) biodiversity and invertebrate ecology, the circular (bio)nutrient economy, and permaculture design practices for creating resilient small farms and gardens. During spring each student will choose the primary context of their practicum work between data-driven market farming and sales or community gardens and food forests as we learn to cultivate annual and perennial crops, steward soil, taste the harvest, and expand socially inviting edible landscapes to support campus wellness.

There will be a significant field component to this class, regardless of the weather. We will have 2-3 weekly practicum sessions outdoors plus some day field trips. Students will need sufficient and appropriate gear to be comfortable outdoors in the highly variable Pacific Northwest weather conditions.

Note: This is an ongoing, two-quarter program that welcomes new students for spring. Spring is a season of new beginnings—and there's no better time to be on the farm. As the fields come back to life and the days grow longer, you will join our established participatory management structure, becoming part of a system that's already in motion. Early on, you will need to explore key sections of *We the People by John Buck and Sharon Villines*, grounding yourself in the principles that shape how we collaborate and make student-centered decisions in this program.

Most importantly, you won't just study these ideas—you'll live them. In Edible Evergreen, learning happens in the fields, in circle meetings, through group projects, and in shared community responsibility. You'll learn by doing, contributing from day one both on the farm and in our community as we move into a new quarter of growth.

What are our Learning Outcomes?

This program will not only expose you to the beautiful Evergreen organic farm, community gardens and food forest, in a fun and challenging way, but it will offer you the chance to have a transformative educational experience. These learning goals will define the guardrails that will guide you towards that experience. They are what we intend you to learn and be able to do upon completion of this program.

We have carefully crafted this program so that students who successfully complete it will build capacity in ...

- Permaculture Design (2 credits)
- Circular (Bio)nutrient Economy (2 credits)
- Soil Ecology with Laboratory (4 credits)
- Economic Botany (4 credits)
- Community Leadership (2 credits)
    - Working collaboratively with others by showing a sense of commitment and responsibility to achieve a goal or common purpose
    - Examining the structure of an organization to build networks that provide the social capital needed to initiate and sustain change.
    - Supporting community well-being by identifying and applying healthy choices and resilient behavior for self and community
    - Using technology for engagement: M365 apps, Excel, Canvas, and other digital and social media
- Wellness through Community Gardening (2 credits)
    - Identify and apply six dimensions of wellness and how they contribute to living a healthy life.
    - Imagine garden spaces that incorporate principles from appropriate dimensions of wellness.

By pursuing answers to the complex questions discussed in the program description and completing all program work, you will demonstrate some degree of accomplishment with respect to each of the following **"Six Expectations of an Evergreen Graduate."** You will be asked to reflect on your progress towards them in your evaluations.

- Articulate and assume responsibility for your own work
- Participate collaboratively and responsibly in our diverse society
- Communicate creatively and effectively
- Demonstrate integrative, independent, and critical thinking
- Apply qualitative, quantitative, and creative modes of inquiry appropriately to practical and theoretical problems across disciplines
- As a culmination of your education, demonstrate depth, breadth and synthesis of learning and the ability to reflect on the personal and social significance of that learning.

<u>What books and resources do I need?</u>

Texts

- Buck and Villines, *We the People: Consenting to a Deeper Democracy,* Sociocracy Info Press; 2nd ed. edition (September 1, 2017). ISBN: 097928273X
- Seeley, Thomas, Honeybee Democracy, Princeton University Press, 2010, ISBN: 978-0691147215
- Hartman, Ben, The Lean Farm Guide to Growing Vegetables, Chelsea Green, 2017 ISBN: 978-1603586993
- Penniman and Washington, *Farming While Black, Soul Fire Farm's Practical Guide...*Chelsea Green, 2018, ISBN 978-1603587617
- Buttala, Lee, *The Seed Garden: The Art and Practice of Seed Saving,* Seed Savers Exchange, 2015, ISBN: 978-0988474918
- Bukowski and Munsell, *The Community Foodforest Handbook*: *How to Plan, Organize, and Nurture....,* Chelsea Green, 2018, ISBN: 978-1603586443

Gear

- Journal, preferably waterproof and small enough to carry easily with you.
- Sufficient clothing and outer layers to keep you warm and comfortable in the highly variable Pacific Northwest fall and winter conditions.
- Day pack large enough to carry food, water, and extra clothing.
- A limited selection of gear is available for rent on campus through The Outdoor Program and the Basic Needs Center.

Technology:

- You will need access to a computer and the internet. (While you can do some things using a mobile device or tablet, a computer is highly recommended.)
- Chromebooks are available for check-out from the Evergreen Library.
- Evergreen offers **free computer access** to all students on campus in the Computer Center, CAL, and Evans Hall (FKA THE Library building). You should check the college website for current hours of operation.
- You can also find computers downtown at the Olympia Timberland Library (313 8th Ave. SE) and other regional libraries.
- Technology support for students can be found at:
  - The Evergreen website at "Student Technology Resources for Remote Learning"
  - Student Technology Help Desk: help.evergreen.edu or 360-867-6231.
  - In housing you can contact resnet@evergreen.edu or call 360-867-5111 for help
  - We encourage you to have access to a back-up computer/digital device with internet access.
- Students have a quarterly printing allowance in the library computer area and the Computer Applications Laboratory (CAL – first floor Lab II building).

What will we be doing?

There are a variety of farm practicums, microscopy labs, workshops, lectures, field trips, and other outdoor work as well as group and individual assignments in this program. You will receive more detailed information during program meetings and on our Canvas website.