

# 2021 Virtual Community Garden Conference March 6, 2021

**The Frelinghuysen Arboretum  
353 East Hanover Avenue  
Morris Township, NJ 07960**

Whether you're an experienced or new community gardener, a Community Garden manager, coordinator, or activist trying to get a Community Garden started, you will want to attend this program.

**Visit [www.arboretumfriends.org](http://www.arboretumfriends.org) to register and for more information.**

**Call 862.325.7754 with any questions.**

## **Save the date for the Virtual 11th Annual Community Garden Conference**

Several sessions are live and others are recorded which can be watched at your leisure.

Keynote Speaker: Ken Greene, Founder of Hudson Valley Seed Company (live)

### **Session topics will include:**

Ask The Experts: Understanding Disease Management in a Community Garden (live)

Food Safety in Community Gardens (recorded with live Q&A)

The Pest Patrol: Discovering Pests and Diseases in Community Gardens (recorded)

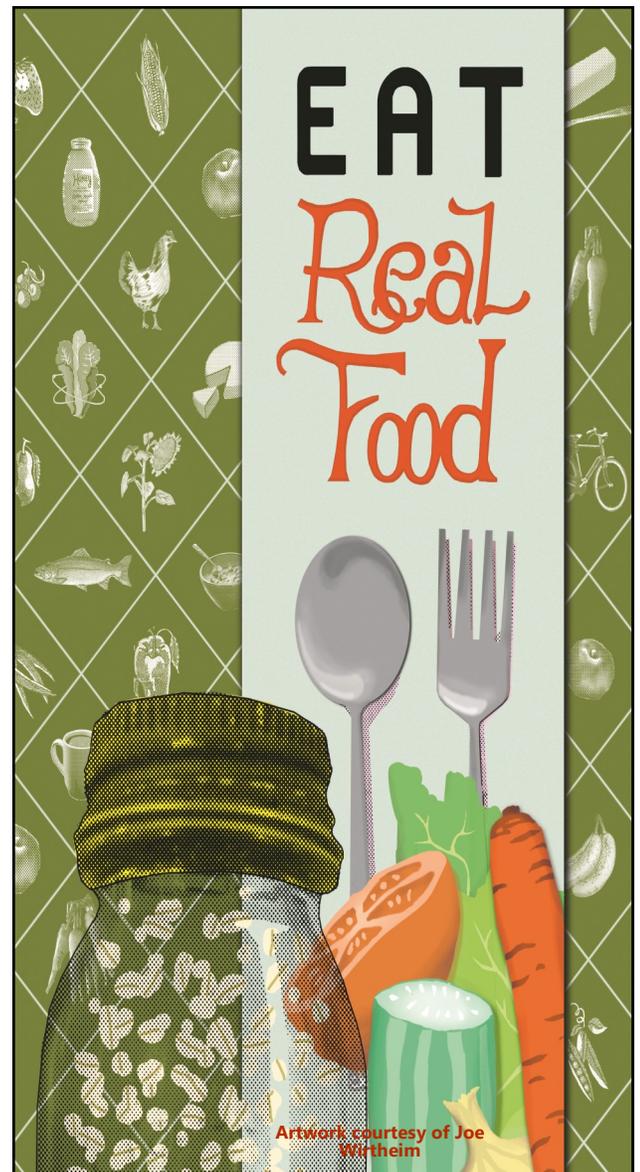
Starting Seeds Indoors: When and How (recorded)

Vegetable Garden Planning for Community Gardens (recorded)

Coordinator's Roundtable Discussion (live)

**Visit [www.arboretumfriends.org](http://www.arboretumfriends.org) for all the details and to register.**

Cost: \$25.00, eligible for 7.0 Rutgers Master Gardener CEU'S



## Session Descriptions

Keynote speaker

### **The Art of the Seed**

Ken Greene, Hudson Valley Seed Company

In this uplifting and inspiring talk, learn the story and the history of seeds through beautiful art work. Seeds tell a story and there is a significant intersect between art and agriculture. Hudson Valley Seed Company commissions artists to produce their famous seed art packs because of their belief that gardens inspire art and art inspires gardens. If you have ever seen antique seed catalogs, or paintings of Monet's beloved garden at Giverny, or the 16th Century artist Archimboldo's paintings that hang in the Louvre, you get it! Seeds are not just commodities and as gardeners that resonates. They come with stories and the artwork changes the way people feel about what they see. Ken will speak about open-pollinated, hybrid and heirloom seeds and also about the work he is doing with SeedShed, his non-profit seed justice initiative.

### **Ask the Experts: Understanding Disease Management in Community Gardens**

Peter Nitzsche and Kris Holmstrom, Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Every community gardener needs to understand the basics of disease management in order to have the best harvest. Is it soil borne or wind blown? Will it affect my neighbor? How can I mitigate the damage? Learn from the experts and get all your questions answered.

### **Food Safety in Community Gardens**

Meredith Melendez, Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Food safety has always been important but never more so during this time of COVID, especially since many of us are donating the food we grow to local food pantries. Learn how to best handle your produce, what precautions should be taken and what systems can be set up in your community garden to keep you, your family and food pantry patrons safe.

### **The Pest Patrol: Discovering Pests and Diseases in Community Gardens**

Rutgers Master Gardeners of Morris County IPM Team

The IPM Team scouts and monitors several community gardens in Morris County for pests and diseases on a biweekly basis. They produce reports based on their findings with photos of the problem as well as solutions. They have been doing this important work for 3 years now and have compiled a timeline of when issues were observed so that now we can anticipate and actively look for certain problems. Learn how they do their work, how COVID affected them in the 2020 season and how you can have access to their remarkable work.

### **Starting Seeds Indoors: When and How**

Grace Tshanakas, Rutgers Master Gardener

There is such joy and excitement watching as seedlings emerge and mature. The biggest excitement, of course, is from either harvesting a food you have grown or seeing a beautiful flower develop. In this presentation, you will learn everything you need to know about starting seeds indoors including seed types, supplies needed, the planting process and caring for seedlings. A great list of resources including Rutgers Fact Sheets are included in the talk.

### **Vegetable Garden Planning for Community Gardens**

Brian Monaghan, Rutgers Master Gardener

Community Gardeners & those interested in organic gardening practices will benefit from this presentation. This talk will address the key issues and choices in planning, planting and caring for your community garden plot with emphasis on organic gardening practices. Advice on determining the best location, choosing seeds and/or seedlings, crop rotation, successive plantings and all the tasks and issues for the entire growing season will be provided.

### **Coordinator' Roundtable**

Ned Gardner, Moderator

This session is for coordinators or managers of community gardens to discuss issues and best practices with other garden managers to learn from each other and to offer advice.