Whether you’re a seasoned gardener or this is the first time you’ve broken ground, cultivate your skills throughout the growing season. There’s so much to cover: soil preparation, composting, seed starting, transplanting, plant care, irrigation, pest management, harvesting, season extension, and preserving your bounty harvest. A variety of hands-on activities and discussion will support your quest to have the abundant vegetable garden you’ve always wanted! Series Fee: $120 - 1 session FREE! (SU16, CE047G1)

- Canton, Spoon River College Community Outreach Center (and off-site)
  Wednesdays, May 4—July 27, 2016; 5:30-7:00 pm

May 4: Home Vegetable Gardening—Garden designs from traditional to raised beds to unique locations. Get the tools to plan garden spaces for optimal production and enjoyment. Topics include site selection, soil basics, planting, fertility, irrigation, weeding, and pest management—with an eye toward proper planning and execution. Fee: $10 (SP16, CE047G2)

May 11: Edible Gardening: Growing Fruits & Vegetables for 4 Seasons—Learn about the various techniques to extend the season and discuss winter hardy plant varieties and seeding dates. Leave equipped and excited to keep your gardens productive all year! Fee: $10 (SP16, CE047G3)

May 18: Grow Organic: Making the Transition—Explore the cultural, biological and mechanical practices used in organic gardening to promote sustainability, ecological balance, and biodiversity, along with providing a healthy and bountiful garden. Fee: $10 (SP16, CE047G4)

May 25: Gardening with Herbs—Do you know that herbs are wonderful garden helpers? Learn how to use herbs in a variety of ways such as attracting beneficial insects, repelling pests, improving your soil and as companion plants in your garden. Fee: $10 (SP16, CE047G5)

June 1: Think Fall: Growing Pumpkins, Gourds & Fun Fall Crops—This workshop celebrates pumpkins, gourds, and more with planting, growing and decorating tips to prepare you for a fun-filled fall. Fee: $10 (SU16, CE047G2)

June 8: Pest Management for the Home Gardener—An interactive pest ID walk through the community garden. Learn about non-chemical controls such as floating row covers, planting times, and resistant varieties, as well as the proper use of organic chemical controls, like insecticidal soap. Fee: $10 (SU16, CE047G3)

June 15: Black Gold: Compost, Vermiculture—Backyard and home composting is the easiest way to reduce garbage from home and create rich soil nutrients to feed the garden. Various types of compost systems and techniques will be discussed, as well as tips and troubleshooting to avoid problems. Fee: $10 (SU16, CE047G4)

June 22: Backyard Chicken Keeping—There are many great benefits to raising chickens: they’re inexpensive and easy to maintain, their eggs are fresh, great-tasting and nutritious. Leave the workshop with knowledge to raise your own flock. (Check local ordinances.) Fee: $10 (SU16, CE047G5)

June 29: Pollinators—Get an overview of Midwest pollinators and learn the role of native bees and managed bees in crop pollination. Learn the principles of planting a pollinator garden and how to plant trees, shrubs, perennials, herbs, etc. to attract diverse pollinators. Fee: $10 (SU16, CE047G6)

July 6: Garden Art—Your garden is more than plants, it’s a blank palette to express your creativity. This workshop combines your love of plants with art to help capture the beauty of the natural world. Fee: $10 (SU16, CE047G7)

July 13: Fall Crops & Growing Garlic—An extended growing season allows us to take advantage of 3 seasons of vegetable gardening. If you are just beginning, learn how to get started. If you already have a garden, learn how to extend it’s productivity. Fee: $10 (SU16, CE047G8)

July 20: Cover Crops—Learn the top motivations to cover crops and gain a greater understanding of what cover crop management methods are best for providing different ecosystem services. Fee: $10 (SU16, CE047G9)

July 27: Soils & Remediation—Healthy soil is the foundation for a healthy garden and key for growing vegetables that are pest and disease resistant, taste better, and are more nutrient dense. Learn about the types of soil in Central Illinois and what amendments might be useful in your garden. Fee: $10 (SU16, CE047GA)

Enroll in individual sessions or the whole series!