

HORT 345 – Organic Market Gardening

By David Baumbauer



The 2011 edition of Organic Market Gardening class had several interesting twists. Two students, Jeanne and William both endured the MSU admission process in order to sign up for the course as non-degree graduate students. William gets extra credit for he drove down from Helena to attend the 8 a.m. class. It was a delight to have these “Return to Learn” students join the course.

The class planted approximately 7000 square feet of garden and two high tunnels. The heart of the class are the 12 student lead presentations covering topics such as insect, disease, and weed management, direct marketing options, cover crops, and irrigation systems.

Highlights included a spirited compost making session, weed scavenger hunt, honey bee hive opening, and a field trip to Gallatin Valley Botanical and Pete Fay’s Rocky Creek Farm.

There were 19 students enrolled in the course with a quarter being horticulture majors, half SFBS majors and the remaining quarter of the students were non-ag majors.