



Upcoming Greenhouse Short Courses January & March 2014

The University of Arizona's Controlled Environment Agriculture Center (CEAC) will once again be hosting the January Crop Intensive Courses and the Spring Crop Production & Engineering Design Short Course.



Dr. Pat Rorabaugh speaking to students in the CEAC teaching greenhouse

Intensive Greenhouse Crop Production Courses: The emphasis on **tomatoes** will be held from **January 5th to the 10th 2014**. The emphasis on **lettuce** will be held from **January 10th to the 12th 2014**. The courses will be taught by hydroponic specialist **Dr. Pat Rorabaugh** and business expert **Myles Lewis** with a special lecture from a legend in the world on Controlled Environment Agriculture, **Dr. Merle Jensen**. Students will receive the perfect blend of classroom and hands-on time in hydroponic greenhouses in order to successfully grow crops on their own. Other useful events include a **round table discussion** with greenhouse engineers, where students can ask questions regarding their greenhouse design and operations, and a **marketing session** from Myles Lewis at Tucson's best farmers market.



Myles Lewis teaching Lettuce Intensive students in the CEAC classroom

CEAC Volunteers: Emissaries to the Community

Hydroponics, aeroponics, organic tea fertilizer, worm castings! Ask the average person and most will not know that these terms apply to present day crop production by commercial as well as homeowner growers. In Tucson, many of these terms are already household concepts introduced to the community through the ongoing, dedicated efforts of the CEAC Volunteers. These volunteers act as information bridges from the Controlled Environment Agriculture Center (CEAC) of the University of Arizona in Tucson to hobby gardeners, school children, and to community groups all of whom are eager to learn how to grow plants in recycled containers without soil and in simple environments.

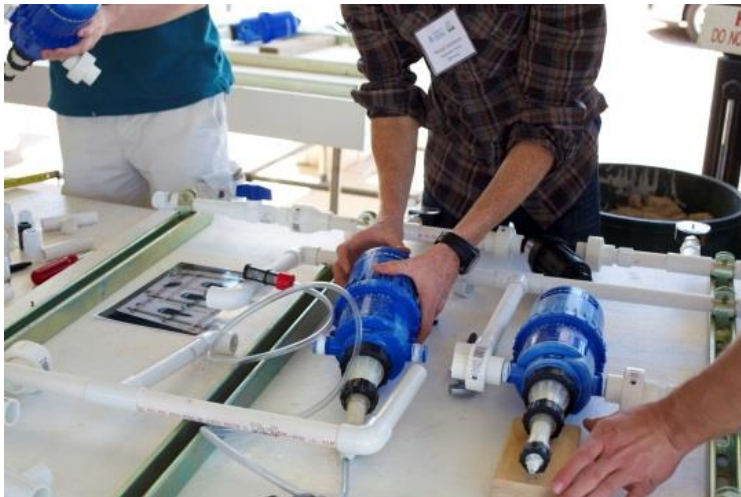


Volunteer Dee Beardsley inspects the pineapple plant growing in the CEAC Demonstration Greenhouse using hydroponics.

The CEAC Demonstration Greenhouse is allocated to the volunteer group by CEAC's director Gene Giacomelli under the direct supervision of Patricia Rorabaugh who is also the group's mentor. By providing this sophisticated space to the volunteers, CEAC and the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences (CALs) are fulfilling one of their essential missions as the land grant institution for the State of Arizona: transferring to the citizens of the State knowledge acquired and generated by their research and teaching faculty.

The 2014 **Crop Production & Engineering Design Short Course** will be **March 23 – 28, 2014**. Lectures given during the Short Course will also be broadcast over the internet and can be viewed with the new Webcast attendance option. The Webcast option allows attendees to watch the lectures both live and later at their convenience.

Participants of the Short Course are presented the most current and innovative strategies used in developing and maintaining successful CEA greenhouse systems. For three days, all aspects of growing hydroponically, a method of growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions, in water, without soil, is the primary focus. This includes material on selecting & maintaining a greenhouse, lighting, pest management, and much more. After 3-days of classroom lectures, students will participate in **hands-on workshops** at the CEAC research and educational facilities on the campus of the University of Arizona, with the goal to connect theory and information with practical hands-on experience for each participant. The final day includes an optional **commercial greenhouse visit and tour**. More information, including a sample schedule can be found at: <http://ag.arizona.edu/ceac/public-courses>



Students participating in the Fertigation hands-on workshop at the 2013 Greenhouse Short Course



Volunteer Deb Dobias converts a coffee cup into a planter inside of the CEAC Demonstration Greenhouse

This never ending story of the activities, motivation and enthusiasm of the CEAC Volunteers, individually and as a group, permeates their activities in reaching out to the public in the name of CALS and the UA. The fruits of their contributions can be clearly seen in the Demo House: tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, flowers, and yes even figs, bananas and pineapples. But, more importantly what is less tangible but even more impactful is the way they convey their collective knowledge from CEAC's faculty and technicians to the community in which we all live. It is truly a labor of love giving back to the community and alerting the community, from school children, to adults, to patients in hospitals, to seniors to the simple yet effective ways of integrating the methods of plant care using hydroponics and controlled environment agriculture for a healthier way of life.

Link to Full Story: <https://ag.arizona.edu/ceac/volunteers>

Announcements: To learn more about the short courses and CEAC activities, please visit our website at <http://ag.arizona.edu/ceac/public-courses> or email us at ceac@ag.arizona.edu.

Visit the CEAC Facebook page and stay current with CEAC news:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/University-of-Arizona-Controlled-Environment-Agriculture-Center/152950294760506>



The University of Arizona
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Department of Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering • School of Plant Sciences
1951 E Roger Rd • Tucson AZ 85719 • 520-626-9566 • <http://ag.arizona.edu/ceac>