

WHERE FOOD, LAND, AND COMMUNITY GROW TOGETHER.



THE REGENERATIVE GROWER TRAINING PROGRAM

at the **Horn Farm Center** rekindles connection to our gardening roots. From vegetables to tree crops, this program teaches skills for propagating and nurturing diverse, abundant, and resilient food systems at various scales.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

How We Produce Food Matters.

In the Regenerative Grower Training Program (RGTP), we encourage growers to *think less like a farmer or gardener, and more like an ecosystem.*

This **part-time, hands-on experience** is for anyone interested in building a relationship with the land through growing food for themselves and their communities. Working with both **annual and perennial crops**, students learn how to sow local abundance while supporting ecological health.



Who Takes This Program?

- ☛ Active & aspiring *small farmers & market gardeners* interested in growing food responsibly.
- ☛ *Landowners* looking to enrich their gardening skills while fostering ecological vitality at home.
- ☛ *Community changemakers* committed to food access and empowering people for local resiliency.
- ☛ *Career-pivoters & students* seeking knowledge and experience for working with the land.



Core Attributes

Regenerative Growing | Ecological Design
Agroforestry | Annual & Perennial Foods
Hands-On | Down-to-Earth
No-Till | Small Scale | Climate Smart

PROGRAM COVERAGE

RGTP is an **immersive, hands-on** learning experience that blends classroom learning, mentorship, and real-world practice in the field.

While field and classroom topics will flow with the seasons, each student will spend the duration of the program designing and tending an **individual study plot** in the field.

Students will also gain market experience by participating in **special events** (*listed on right*) to sell plants, produce, and other products grown in the program.

Sowing Season

FEB

Winter

MAR

- Foundations of ecological design
- Plant propagation: greenhouse
- Seasonal field prep



APR

Spring

MAY

- Early season planting + management
- Bed design + field planning
- Greenhouse propagation cont.



Spring Plant Sale
May 2, 2026

~ Two Week Break ~

JUNE

Summer

JULY

AUG

- Field production for weekly **CSA***
- Pests, diseases, and other challenges
- Harvesting, processing, and managing abundance (preservation, etc.)

Solstice Market
June 20, 2026



SEPT

Fall

OCT

- Personal project wrap
- Winter field prep



Pawpaw Festival
September 19, 2026

Growing Season

*Community Supported Agriculture: starting in June, students will leave each Tuesday with a box of produce grown in the program.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Tuesdays & Fridays, February 17th to October 16th, 2026

Sowing Season Winter | Spring

Classes take place at the Horn Farm Center.

- ☛ Sowing Season times: **9AM - 1PM**
- ☛ Growing Season times: **8AM - 12PM**

Exception: three classes will be set aside for **field trips to other ecological growing spaces. Dates will be shared at the start of the program.*



February 2026		April 2026	
T 2/17	F 2/20		F 4/3
T 2/24	F 2/27	T 4/7	F 4/10
March 2026		T 4/14	F 4/17
T 3/3	F 3/6	T 4/21	F 4/24
T 3/10	F 3/13	T 4/28	
T 3/17	F 3/20	May 2026	
T 3/24	F 3/27		F 5/1
T 3/31		Saturday, 5/2 Plant Sale	

Break Time

May 3 - May 18



Growing Season Summer | Fall

**Class time shift:*
8AM - 12PM



May 2026		August 2026	
T 5/19	F 5/22	T 8/4	F 8/7
T 5/26	F 5/29	T 8/11	F 8/14
June 2026		T 8/18	F 8/21
T 6/2	F 6/5	T 8/25	F 8/28
T 6/9	F 6/12	September 2026	
T 6/16	F 6/19	T 9/1	F 9/4
Saturday, 6/20 Solstice Market		T 9/8	F 9/11
T 6/23	F 6/26	T 9/15	F 9/18
T 6/30		Saturday, 9/19 Pawpaw Festival	
July 2026		T 9/22	F 9/25
	F 7/3	T 9/29	
T 7/7	F 7/10	October 2026	
T 7/14	F 7/17		F 10/2
T 7/21	F 7/24	T 10/6	F 10/9
T 7/28	F 7/31	T 10/13	F 10/16

RGTP THROUGH THE SEASONS

Collaborating with the Horn Farm's staff in designing, planting, and tending **annual and perennial food systems** for a full growing season, students will experience a broad range of **regenerative agriculture** and **agroforestry** practices.

See below for a glimpse of topics, activities, and crops covered by season:

Winter

Harvesting basketry willows | Pruning tree crops
Planting live stakes | greenhouse seed starting
Bed planning | perennial propagation



Spring

Bed design | succession & companion planting
Early season crops | botany & plant families
"Weeding" & foraging | tools



Fall

Natural preservation & fermentation
Native fruit & nut crops | winter bed prep
Pawpaws | hazelnuts | season reflection



Summer

Tending annuals | watering & irrigation
Soil health | pests & diseases | market design
Garlic | black raspberries | elderberries



PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Upon completing the RGTP, students will walk away with ...

- ☞ A full season's experience growing diverse annual and perennial vegetables, fruits, and tree crops on a small scale.
- ☞ Confidence, inspiration, and practical insights for observing, designing, planting, and tending ecological food systems.
- ☞ Nuanced and embodied knowledge of ecology, native and cultivated plants, soil health, and earthcare.
- ☞ Empowerment and conviction in supporting others to rekindle our connection with the land.
- ☞ A network of likeminded peers practitioners equipped to continue nurturing this growing field

I:4

Instructor : Student
ratio



Additional Perks



- ☞ **20 weekly boxes** of fresh fruit and vegetables grown and gathered in the program.
- ☞ **Three field trips** to allied farms and properties demonstrating regenerative growing practices.
- ☞ **Physical exercise** and plenty of **outdoor time**.
- ☞ Sessions on related topics for regenerative living, including **foraging, fermentation, and more**.
- ☞ **Comradery and connection** with like-minded students.

APPLICATION AND FEES

To Apply:

Head to hornfarmcenter.org/regenerative-grower-training/ and submit an interest form. After doing so, you will receive an email from the instructors to schedule an **informal get-to-know-you meeting** to discuss your goals, needs, and questions.

Program Cost: \$2860 *Minimum cost: \$2430

Sliding scale* options are available to promote accessibility or support other students in offsetting program costs. *See webpage for more details.*

Scholarships

With the generous support of the **NiSource Foundation**, students can apply for scholarship funding when completing the interest form. Scholarships will be awarded on a **first come, first served** basis. *See webpage for more details.*



Physical Expectations Note

Hands-on engagement is core to this program. We ask that students be **capable of physical exertions typical of gardening**, including bending, stooping, pulling, digging, carrying up to 30lb, and spending time outdoors in all conditions.

If students are concerned about physical demands or limitations, please let us know in the interest form.

Questions?



Reach us at
education@hornfarmcenter.org



2025 RGTP