

2022 SIFT Demonstration Farm Workshop Series

National Center for Appropriate Technology
3040 Continental Dr.
Butte, MT 59701

NCAT's Small-Scale Intensive Farm Training program (SIFT) operates a high-altitude urban demonstration farm in Butte, Montana, that is focused on production of food for the good of the community. Join us for hands on lessons on growing food sustainability right here in Butte, MT. Workshops will be held once a month on a Saturday from 10am-12pm.

- May 21st** **Preparing your Organic Garden:** In conjunction with CFWEP and Montana Tech's Earth Month we will be kicking off the SIFT Workshop Series with a hands-on lesson on composting basics, organic potting mix, organic soil amendments, cover crops, mulching methods and more. We will also talk about how to schedule your plantings through-out the growing season and the importance of hardening off plants in our environment.
- June** **Analyzing your Soil and Creating a Management Plan:** In this workshop we will learn how to analyze your soil type, conduct infiltration tests and review soil tests. We will look at different management strategies to address the needs of the soil and develop a plan. This workshop will address tillage and degradation of soils, irrigation and water holding capacities, as well as developing a custom cover crop mix for your needs.
- July** **Benefits of Increasing Biodiversity:** In this workshop we will discuss the benefits of increased pollinator habitat, integrated pest management, and risk mitigation in cropping strategies by building more biodiverse ecosystems. In this workshop, we will be planting drought tolerant native pollinators and touring our native hedge row.
- August 13th** **Harnessing the Sun's Energy for Season Extension in SW Montana:** In conjunction with the Clean Energy Fair which will be held at NCAT's headquarters, SIFT will be holding an open house for all visitors to tour. Come learn about hi-tunnel construction, solar passive greenhouses, and season extension tools useful in SW Montana. We will discuss different construction plans, costs and function of extension tools. Learn about using the resources readily available to operate a sustainable farm.
- September** **Choosing Varieties to Grow in Butte:** Join in on our annual taste test of successful varieties of fruits and vegetables trialed on the SIFT Farm. We will discuss timing, growing tips, seed selection for high yields in Butte. We will also discuss seed saving basics for a resilient farm and garden.