

Feeding Communities, an
Urban Agriculture Training Program
for the Colorado Front Range



Brien C. Darby, MPH
Manager of Urban Food Programs
Denver Botanic Gardens

DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS





Denver Botanic Gardens' Urban Food Initiatives

- York St.—demonstration garden, education
- Chatfield Farms—6 acres under cultivation, CSA, market garden
- Urban farms operated with Denver Housing Authority
- Operate 4 farm stands



Feeding Communities

An urban agriculture course that uses multiple teaching approaches:

- Textbook learning
- Instructional videos
- Traditional lecture
- Classroom activities
- Hands-on gardening experience

Audience

Classes have been taught to the following communities:

- Public housing residents
- University students
- Veterans to Farmers
- Teachers seeking CEC
- General audience (at DBG)



Feeding Communities: A Handbook for the Urban Farmer



Textbook

- Available in hardback and digital format
- 1st Edition completed in spring 2014.
- 2nd Edition currently in editing
 - Includes separate teacher's edition
 - Includes a separate student workbook to be used with digital version

Instructional Videos



- Tool Use
- Composting
- Seed Saving
- *Harvesting*
- Cleaning/packing produce
- Watering technique

Lecture



- Engaging the Community
- Crops
- Pests and Diseases
- Soils
- Plant Nutrition
- Marketing/Business

Classroom Activities



- Soil testing
- *Selecting seed varieties from catalogues*
- Design workshop
- Sowing seeds

Hands-on Gardening

- *Mariposa Urban Farm*
- Le Potager (at DBG)
- Home Harvest (at DBG)
- Sisters Garden (with Urbiculture)

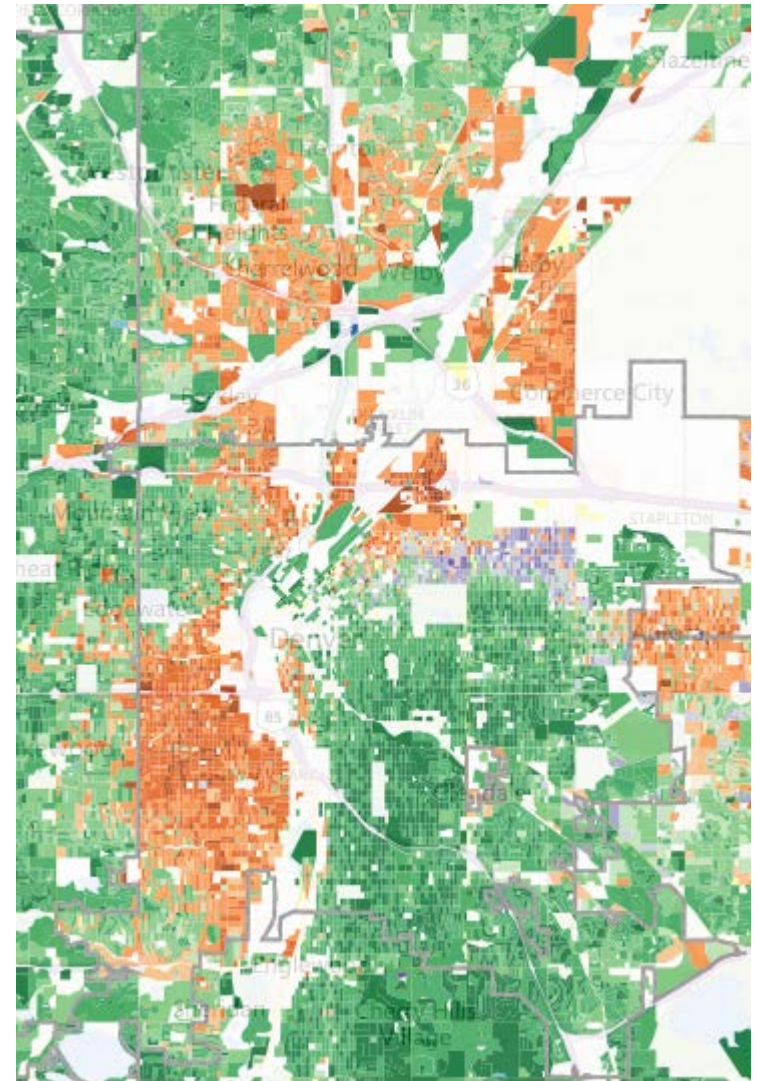
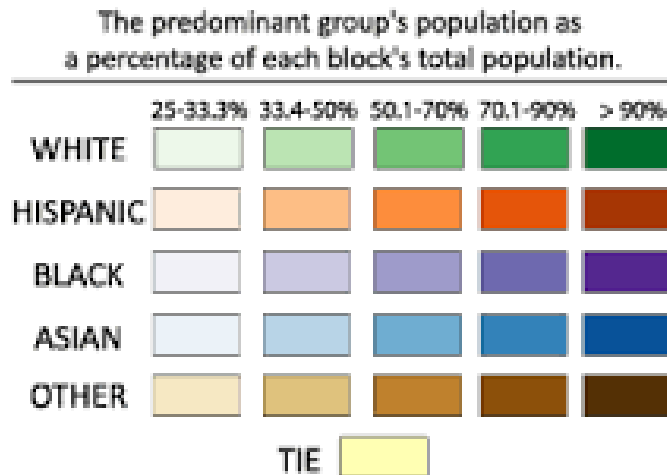


Class Format

- Ideally taught in the late winter or early spring
- Eight 3 hours classes
 - Allows for more hands-on skills practice
 - Easy transition to working on individual/group projects
- Three 8 hour classes
 - Better for working professionals
 - Less opportunity to see changes in the farm space

Next Steps

- Spanish translation
- Greater sharing of our curriculum



Thank you!



Brien Darby

darbyb@botanicgardens.org