

Aquaponics Could Hold Appeal for Disenchanted Gardeners

Summer hail damage leads to increased interest in sustainable alternatives

August 20, 2014 – Edmonton, AB – While it's been a disappointing season for local gardeners, aquaponics is emerging as an alternative growing method to using soil and growing outdoors. At the U of A in Edmonton world experts will teach what is needed to build and maintain an aquaponics system of any size at an upcoming workshop and tour being hosted by NOA Fisheries on September 8th, 9th and 10th. This is the sixth event being produced by NOA and the second time the organization hosts in Edmonton. Participants will learn how to utilize the urban friendly production techniques for personal and consumer use and gain access to research facilities normally not open to the public. The first two days will feature speakers including; Dr. Nick Savidov (Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development), Dr. Kevin Fitzimmons (University of Arizona), Charlie Shultz (Lethbridge College), Donald Bailey (University of the Virgin Islands) and Jim Wagner (Environment & Sustainable Resource Development) followed by a rare guided tour of the aquaponics research facility at Crop Diversification Centre North.

“Those using aquaponics are not affected by problems with climate change and a poor natural growing season, ” says Jason Oziel, director of Ontario based NOA Fisheries, “and this workshop will give you the tools needed to produce vegetables and fish year round.

As a hobby, aquaponics is a cross between gardening and raising fresh fish. As a commercial venture, it can provide a ready source of organic fish and produce that are chemical and hormone free. An aquaponics system may have as few as 10 fish in a backyard operation, up to several thousands in a commercial facility.

“Dr. Savidov will be demonstrating his new urban aquaponics system, and discussing his upcoming commercial aquaponics build at the research centre ” says Oziel, “so that along with all the practical information on aquaponics, participants will get a taste of the exciting research and science behind it all.”

For more information on this workshop or the topic of aquaponics in Edmonton, to download our media package or arrange an interview visit www.noafisheries.ca/media-inquiries or call 1-416- 546 -6623