

# Toronto Urban Growers

**Report for 2023**

**We are a member based network that aims to increase the availability of healthy, organic and sustainable food grown, processed and sold in Toronto.**



# TUG projects

## Networking

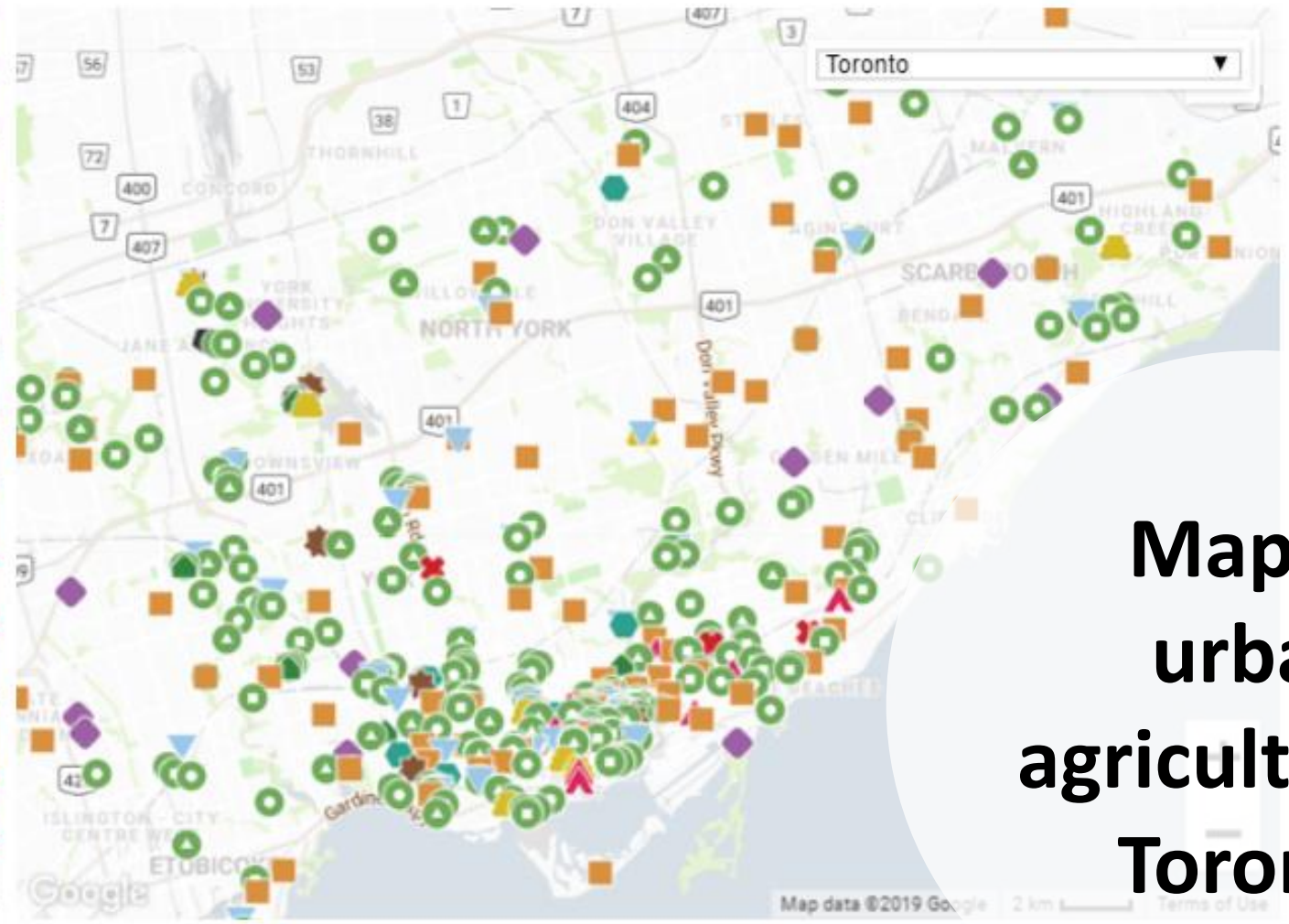
The website features a dark red header with the logo, a 'MAP' button, and a 'Get Connected!' link. A navigation bar includes 'HOME', 'ABOUT US', 'RESOURCES', 'EVENTS', 'URBAN AG IN TORONTO', 'GET INVOLVED', and 'CONTACT US'. The main content area has a featured image of vegetables in a wooden bowl with the text 'Best Fruit or Vegetable Area [ARG]'. Below this is a section for 'URBAN AGRICULTURE WEEK' with the text 'Nine days of celebrating urban-grown food and the people who grow it!'. To the right, there are four colored boxes: 'TUG projects' (red), 'Getting started' (teal), 'What is urban agriculture?' (yellow), and 'Why grow food in the city?' (purple). Below these is an 'EVENTS' section listing 'September 10th 2020 Pre-UA Week Social at the Carrot Green Roof 18:00 to 20:00'.

The YouTube channel page shows the channel name 'Toronto Urban Growers' with 62 subscribers and 42 videos. The 'Uploads' section displays five video thumbnails: 'Isaac Crosby TSS 2022 #1' (23:54), 'Monika's medicinal plants #3 Q&A' (44:34), 'Monika's medicinal plants #2' (24:43), 'Monika's medicinal plants #1' (20:26), and 'Compost tea with Crooked Farmz' (30:09). The page also includes a search bar, navigation icons, and a sidebar with 'SUBSCRIPTIONS'.

- Google group with 1000+ members
- Facebook, Instagram
- YouTube channel
- Co-admin of Grow Food Toronto FB group



- Toronto Parks community gardens
- Public Housing Community Gardens
- Other community gardens
- Allotment gardens
- School and children's gardens
- Producers
- Other urban ag businesses
- Organizations
- Rooftop gardens
- Greenhouses
- Beehives
- Orchards
- Other



Map of urban agriculture in Toronto



# TUG projects

Recordings of past webinars are posted on the TUG YouTube channel



**FREE**

## Growing a Greener City in Paris + Toronto

Panel 1: How to build support for urban agriculture

# CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE WEBINAR

January 22, 2024 | Monday, 7-9PM

Featuring speakers from:



**REGISTER NOW!**

Scan the QR code or follow the link:



<https://forms.gle/11qjxWVQz cjeXqCd7>



## Ask an Urban Farmer

An in-person and online workshop hosted by the Toronto Urban Farmer Training program



# TUG collaborations

# Seedy Saturdays 2023

City-wide events were back live! TUG continued to share Seedy info online. A new website is up for 2024.



## Growing the seed community

We are community organizations and seed champions across the city who want to ensure that growers have access to heritage and culturally important seeds.



Seed vendors

[Uncategorized](#)



Events and exchanges

[Edit Site](#) ⋮



# TUG collaborations

## Urban Agriculture Week 2023

September 16-24 • 9 days  
42 events across the city!

The Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Group & The Community History Project  
present

### Why We Wear Orange

fred victor



Access Alliance  
Multicultural Health and Community Services

Urban Agriculture Week  
September 16-24 2023



This is a Zero Waste Event



GET READY TO CELEBRATE

## URBAN AG WEEK

DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21  
TIME: 9:00AM TO 12:00PM  
LOCATION: ST. HILDA'S KIRKWOOD MEADOWS (44 DEVONSHIRE PLACE)

#CAMPSTOURS  
#MINI-TALKS  
#CLUBSFAIRS

### RIVERDALE HUB ROOFTOP GARDEN TOURS

In celebration of Urban Agriculture Week 2023

### SUPPORT URBAN FARMERS

The Withrow Park Farmers' Market's Urban Grower Program Reduces barriers for backyard farmers to participate in our market!  
Join us on Saturdays 9:00-1:00

COURTYARD MARKET  
Sunday September 17th • 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

SEPT 17  
10am-2pm  
Drop-In Workshops & Open House Garden Tours  
348 Danforth Ave

Seed Ball Making with Lead Farmer of @avlingto Michelle, 10am-1pm  
Seed Saving + Plant-Art Making

CARROT GREEN ROOF  
WITHROW PARK FARMERS MARKET

CELEBRATING TORONTO-GROWN FOOD AND THE PEOPLE WHO GROW IT!

etobiGlow

### TORONTO URBAN AGRICULTURE WEEK

SEPT 16-24

CELEBRATING TORONTO-GROWN FOOD AND THE PEOPLE WHO GROW IT!

Wild By Nature BOTANICALS

*You're Invited!* Harvest Fundraiser for Common Table Farm ❤️

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 FROM 2-5PM  
1 LAURETIDE DRIVE, NORTH YORK

JOIN US FOR FARM TOURS, TASTY TREATS, MUSIC & AN A-MAIZING SILENT AUCTION!

Support a local farm in your neighbourhood, while celebrating the first day of Fall! Our farm provides produce to residents experiencing food insecurity. We need your help to keep our farm open in 2024!

### School Garden Walking Tour

Toronto Urban Agriculture Week 2023

4:30

Visit Green Thumbs Growing Kids' 3 school gardens plus get a view of our newly cultivated green roof!

### Cultivating Green Thumbs

At Evergreen Brick Works Children's Garden

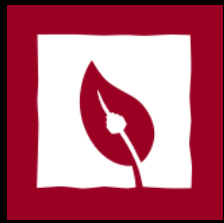
Community Arts Guild, in Collaboration with the Scarborough Village Community Garden

## Harvest Festival!

Saturday, September 16, 2023  
11am - 3pm - Fred Johnson Park - 3630 Kingston Rd

Join us for a parade, live music, art display, art activities, veggie and plant giveaway, garden tours, scavenger hunts, free bike repair, and face painting!

CROOKED FARMZ celebrates Toronto Urban Agriculture Week 2023



# TUG collaborations

## Urban farm business research and training project

- Collaboration with Seneca Polytechnic, West Neighbourhood House and Toronto Metropolitan University
- Research on production and business models specifically for urban farmers
- Offered two training programs in 2023
- Program won an Honorable Mention in the Excellence in Education AgriFood Awards Ontario

# TUFT Toronto Urban Farmer Training

TUFT is an 8-module training program, with 2 in-person sessions, over the course of 11 weeks. It is designed to support urban farmers as they create viable, sustainable enterprises by sharing practical knowledge and tools specific to the urban context.



### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN TUFT?

TUFT is open to everyone who is interested running an urban agriculture enterprise:

- you are exploring ideas for a farm business
- you've already started writing a business plan
- you're already farming
- you're looking to integrate food production at an organization or institution

We do recommend that participants have some production experience.

### WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

- no cost to participate at this time
- access to a computer and the internet
- some sessions may take place in-person depending on participant interest and availability

### WHEN IS TUFT HAPPENING?

TUFT will run from October 23, 2023 to January 2024. The online live classes takes place on Mondays from 7 to 9PM.

### HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

For more information on the delivery and content including the course outline, please check: [www.senecacollege.ca/urban\\_agriculture](http://www.senecacollege.ca/urban_agriculture)

You may also contact [west.suhanic@senecacollege.ca](mailto:west.suhanic@senecacollege.ca) or [andrew.paton@senecacollege.ca](mailto:andrew.paton@senecacollege.ca)





# TUG collaborations

Delegation from AgroParis Tech tours, public forum and meetings during Toronto Urban Agriculture Week



Resource-use efficiency and city food systems

Lessons from two European projects



A. Leli vre, Septembre 2023



**FREE**

## Growing a Greener City in Paris + Toronto

A Public Forum

Monday 18 September, 2:30 – 6:00 PM  
Toronto Metropolitan University, Architecture Building,  
325 Church Street in The Pit  
**+ LIVE ONLINE OPTION**  
SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO & REGISTRATION

3:00–4:15 PM Panel #1: How to build support for urban agriculture

4:45–6:00 PM Panel #2: Food as urban ecology  
[UAinParisinperson.eventbrite.ca](http://UAinParisinperson.eventbrite.ca)







# TUG projects

## Connecting growers to people with underused garden space



Templates for garden sharing agreements and webinars are posted on the TUG site



### Garden Sharing Network Toronto

### Garden Sharing Manual



## TUG activities

# Responding to current issues

Hello TUGgers,

Celebrations for Toronto Urban Agriculture Week got a little sweeter yesterday as Premier Doug Ford announced that, due to public pressure, he would reverse the decision to remove land from the Greenbelt.

Thanks to all of those who spoke out in favour of preserving our farmlands, foodlands and watersheds!

I heard the news when Sunday Harrison yelled jubilantly in the middle of a Green Thumbs Growing Kids school garden walking tour. How perfect is that?





# TUG activities

Provide advice and support to UA projects and city building initiatives



This includes consulting, providing letters of support and participating on advisory committees





# TUG activities

Responding to requests from media, students and people looking for info and resources for gardening and farming

The **ENERGYMIX**  
Climate news that makes a difference

Cities & Communities   Electric Mobility   Heat & Power   Community Climate Finance

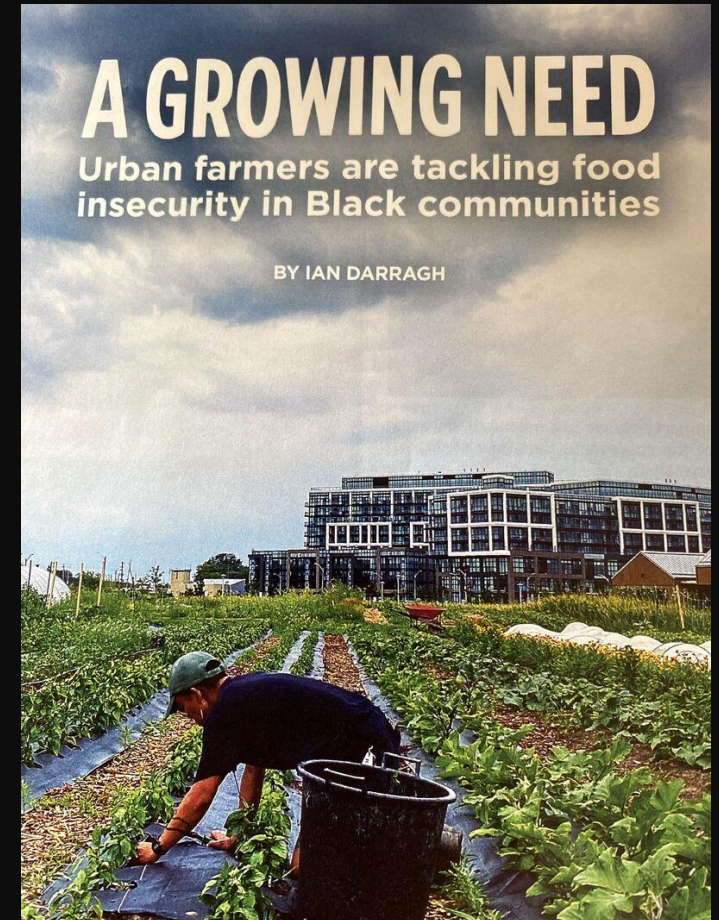
## Urban Farming Shows Higher Carbon Footprint than Conventional Agriculture

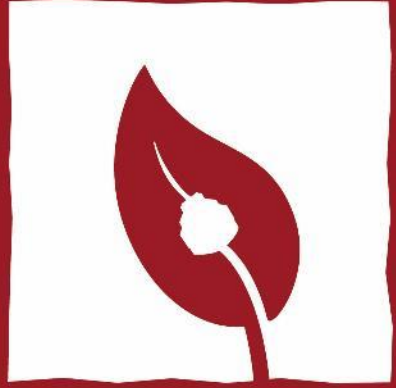
February 6, 2024   Reading time: 7 minutes  
Primary Author: Christopher Bonasia



**Trending Stories**

-  **CCS Won't Happen in Oilsa Bigger Subsidies, Cenovus**  
March 11, 2024
-  **Alberta Coal Mine Doesn't Federal Permits Before 'Fo**  
March 11, 2024





**Toronto  
Urban  
Growers**

[www.torontourbangrowers.org](http://www.torontourbangrowers.org)

@TOurbangrowers

info@torontourbangrowers.org



**Rhonda Teitel-Payne**



**James Kuhns**



**Joe Nasr**