

**SUMMER COURSE OFFERING:**

# INTRODUCTION TO URBAN AGROECOLOGY

**WITH GUEST SPEAKER MIGUEL ALTIERI**

**INSTRUCTORS: WILL SMITH, BROOKE PORTER, NEEKA SALMASI  
DESEREE FONTENOT, GUILLERMO VASQUEZ**

**JUNE 25TH-27TH, 2021**

**LOCATION: UC GILL TRACT COMMUNITY FARM**

An in-person, weekend intensive on agroecological practices used at the Gill Tract Farm and land sovereignty movements around the world, including intercropping, composting, and solidarity building.

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## will smith

will is a black, korean, queer earth steward who views land as a way to heal and connect to our ancestral practices. will helps grow & distribute healthy, chemical-free food and medicine to mainly Black, Brown, Indigenous communities in Huichin (Lisjan Ohlone land) - also known as the bay area. their roots with stewarding land begins with a familial love for food and seeing from an early age the way that food connects people across cultures, time, and space. will believes that this earth can be healed through prayer, Black liberation, Indigenous land sovereignty, and the solidarity needed to put that into action.



## brooke porter

Brooke (she/her) is a seed sower, agroecologist, and visual storyteller, committed to cultivating relationships of reciprocity with the land and communities. Through a process of interweaving the social, ecological, and political dimensions of agroecology, she actively works to create regenerative farming systems rooted in ancestral practices and justice. Brooke is a collective founding member of Agroecology Commons and has worked as a public school educator in the Bay Area, teaching youth agroecology, natural building, herbal medicine making, and earth science. She holds an MSc in Agroecology from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences in conjunction with Spain's Universidad de Córdoba.



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## deseree fontenot

Deseree Fontenot is a collective member of Movement Generation: Justice and Ecology Project and co-founder of the Queer EcoJustice Project. As a queer black organizer, farmer, and grassroots ecologist, Deseree's movement work is focused on black land and liberation, climate justice and queering ecological education.

## neeka salmasi

Neeka Salmasi is a farmer and educator working to protect the western monarch habitat at Gill Tract Farm. She is interested in the intersections between restoration ecology, traditional ecological knowledge, agroecology, environmental justice and policy change. She comes from a family of farmers in Iran and has seen how top-down mismanagement of land has decimated ecosystems and the communities tied to them. Neeka is inspired by global movements to rematriate stolen indigenous lands, land reparations for marginalized peoples and defending land from corporate development and privatization. She's excited about the opportunity to involve urban folks in habitat restoration for a species on the brink of extinction. "Feeling that reciprocity and stewardship with an ecosystem is essential to remembering who we are and why we are here as human beings," says Neeka. "Protecting the western monarch (and thereby other critical pollinators), at Gill Tract is one small way we can start doing this important work."



Guillermo Vasquez, of  
Indigenous Permaculture,  
[indigenouspermaculture.org](http://indigenouspermaculture.org)



GUEST SPEAKER

# MIGUEL ALTIERI



Miguel received a BS in Agronomy from the University of Chile and a Ph.D in Entomology from the University of Florida. He has been a Professor of Agroecology at UC Berkeley since 1981 in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management ( [www.agroeco.org](http://www.agroeco.org) and [www.cnr.berkeley.edu](http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu)). Dr. Altieri served as a Scientific Advisor to the Latin American Consortium on Agroecology and Development (CLADES) Chile an NGO network promoting agroecology as a strategy for small farm sustainable development in the region.

He also served for 4 years as the General Coordinator for the United Nations Development Programme's Sustainable Agriculture Networking and Extension Programme which aimed at capacity building on agroecology among NGOs and the scaling-up of successful local sustainable agricultural initiatives in Africa, Latin America and Asia. In addition he was the chairman of the NGO committee of the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research whose mission was to make sure that the research agenda of the 15 International Agricultural Research Centers benefited the poor farmers of the. He also was Director of the US-Brasil Consortium on Agroecology and Sustainable Rural Development (CASRD) an academic-research exchange program involving students and faculty of UC Berkeley, University of Nebraska, UNICAMP and Universidad Federal de Santa Catarina.

Currently he is advisor to the FAO-GIAHS program ( Globally Ingenious Agricultural Heritage Systems-[www.giahs.org](http://www.giahs.org)) a program devoted at identifying and dynamically conserving traditional farming systems in the developing world. He also served for 6 years as the President of the Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology . He is the author of more than 230 publications, and numerous books including *Agroecology: The Science of Sustainable Agriculture and Biodiversity*, *Pest Management in Agroecosystems* and *Agroecology and the Search for a Truly Sustainable Agriculture*.

