



PHOTO CAPTION

Organic gardening tips for healthy biodiversity

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[Caption:] Gardening wisdom was shared at the ‘Grass Roof Tour and Gardening Guidelines’ event hosted by the Eastern Cape Branch of the Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa (IWMSA) in Port Elizabeth on Friday, 12 May 2017. Members enjoyed a brief history of the Grass Roof, presented by Nicky Charlewood, owner of the farm stall and coffee shop. Thereafter, Grant Dryden (above), founder and CEO of Bountiful Grains Trust and creator of the ‘Farming God’s Way’ technique, shared guidelines to composting and gardening.

Farming God’s Way is a non-profit organisation that aims to alleviate poverty by sharing organic gardening and farming principles with their stakeholders. “The technique is based on minimal interference with the natural processes,” says Dryden, “we don’t plough, we have a minimal approach to soil disturbance and we practice biodiversity,” he continues.

Grant introduced the Farming God’s Way technique to Mike Charlewood in 2015. Since then many of the tunnels and shade cloth area on Olive Tree Farm in Port Elizabeth has been utilised for planting using the technique, and a training centre has been established on the Grass Roof’s premises. Dryden

has also introduced the technique at Van Stadens Flower Farm School, St Albans Primary School and Yellowwoods Primary School. The schools now provide fresh produce to the poor, elderly, and the ill and the balance they are able to sell for much needed school funding.

Following the presentation Noel Wilson, manager of Olive Tree Farm, led attendees on a guided tour of Olive Tree Farm, where they could see their composting and tunnel farming practices in action. “Information sessions such as these expose our members to other facets of waste management, and even during the tour of the farm we were able to identify opportunities to support this initiative,” says Theo von Ruben, Chairperson of the IWMSA Eastern Cape Branch.

For more information on the Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa visit www.iwmsa.co.za. You can also follow IWMSA on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/iwmsa>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/IWMSA>).

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Media contact:
Nadia Nel
Mobile Number: 081 439 3912
nadia@reputationmatters.co.za