

2027 UVM Extension Master Gardener Course Course Syllabus

Please note that the order of topics addressed is subject to change. Updated Oct 29, 2026

Course Description

As our signature course, the UVM Extension Master Gardener course is designed to train volunteers to become certified Master Gardener volunteers and others who would like to become more informed gardeners. The course covers a wide range of subject matter, outlined in this syllabus, taught by university and other horticultural experts.

We offer two tracks:

- **Track 1** is our volunteer certification track, meant for students who'd like to become a certified Extension Master Gardener volunteer and give back to their communities with gardening education. In this Track, students complete volunteer requirements, participate in weekly real-time Zoom sessions with instructors, and attend extra sessions to learn about becoming an Extension Master Gardener (EMG) and connect with other EMGs. All students who have lived in Vermont for at least 1 year before the close of the course are eligible to take the course as a Track 1 student.
- **Track 2** is our learn-at-your-own-pace track that is offered to Vermonters who are not interested or available for a volunteer commitment and for participants outside of Vermont. Students have access to all course content (including recordings of lectures and discussion sessions) and navigate the course at their leisure.

Course Location

The course is offered online at campus.extension.org where you, as a student, work through 16 course modules that contain course materials, pre-recorded lectures, and homework assignments. Track 1 students also meet weekly via Zoom.

Dates & Times

Week 1 of the online course opens on Friday, January 15, 2027. The course runs through May 7 and students have access to the course portal until June 6. Each week on Friday at 5 p.m. ET, we open a new course module for the week. Students view pre-recorded lectures by the instructors and complete weekly readings, quizzes and other assignments. Track 1 students participate in live Zoom meetings every Thursday from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. ET from January 21 to May 6. Track 1 students will receive the Zoom link for these weekly meetings when the course opens. Track 2 students will have access to the recordings of these sessions.

Important Dates

Jan. 8: Registration closes.

Jan. 15: Week 1 module opens at 5 p.m.

Jan. 21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/15, 4/22, 4/29, 5/6: Live Q&A Zoom sessions for Track 1 students.

Jan. 29: Final date to drop course & request a refund.

Feb. 12: Deadline for Track 1 students to switch tracks.

May 7: Final assignments due by midnight. No exceptions.

Jun. 6: Course access ends.

Course Learning Objectives

After completing this course, all students will be able to:

- Understand the general growing conditions in Vermont for major plant types including vegetables, trees, perennials, annuals, and container plants.
- Use the UVM Extension Master Gardener website, Extension Foundation's campus, and other online resources for learning.
- Perform research on garden topics using science-based resources to diagnose plant problems and provide management recommendations.
- Understand the principles and decision-making process of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for guiding pest management guidance to the public. Communicate the relative benefits and risks of no action, cultural/physical, biological, and chemical management strategies, and effective pest management strategies that pose the lowest risks to human health, non-target organisms, habitats, and water quality.

Track 1 students will also be able to:

- Articulate the mission of the UVM Extension Master Gardener program, including the roles and responsibilities of volunteers, program staff, and local Chapters.
- Understand a range of methods for reaching and teaching Vermonters about gardening.
- Share their gardening knowledge with Vermonters in their local communities.

Required Course Materials, Platforms and Software

Course Manual. We use the PennState Master Gardener Manual as our required text for the course. The 800+ page manual was developed by PennState University and is intended for use by Extension Master Gardener programs throughout the Northeast. Please order your copy directly from PennState at: https://extension.psu.edu/master-gardener-manual; it is $75 plus shipping. Limited copies of the manual are available through interlibrary loan. Please make sure you secure a copy of the Manual by no later than Jan. 15.

Moodle. The course uses Moodle software as the online platform available through the Extension Foundation campus at: http://campus.extension.org. If you have not yet taken a course at the Extension Foundation campus, you will need to create an account at: https://catalog.extension.org/account?action=createaccount. Students should ensure that they can access this online platform through a computer, tablet, etc. Viewing pre-recorded class lectures and other assigned readings and submitting assignments on time are required to successfully complete the course. In addition, all course modules offer optional supplementary resources for further education on each topic addressed. ***Using the Moodle App on Apple and Google Play Devices:*** A mobile app is available for Extension Foundation campus courses. Some content can be accessed through the Moodle mobile app, but not all features are supported. ***We cannot guarantee full functionality of the course on the mobile app***, so please use the desktop version to ensure complete access. The app is available at: https://download.moodle.org/mobile. Access the course using the QR code available by clicking on your profile while logged into your Extension Foundation campus account.

Zoom: Track 1 students must be able to participate in Zoom for our weekly sessions. Please review Zoom's new user information if you have not previously used this platform.

Instructors and Contact Information

The course is facilitated by Deb Heleba, UVM Extension Master Gardener Program Coordinator. She may be reached through the course platform (or by email at debra.heleba@uvm.edu or phone at 802.656.1777). Learn more about our staff at: www.uvm.edu/extension/mastergardener/contact-us. Instructors for the course include University of Vermont and Cornell University faculty and staff as well as industry experts. For the 2027 course, they include Dr. Terry Bradshaw, Dr. Wendy Sue Harper, Dr. Ann Hazelrigg, Deb Heleba, Emilie Inoue, Amy Ivy, Dr. Becky Maden, Adam McCullough, Laura McDermott, and Jane Sorensen.

Refund Policy

The final date to withdraw from the course and request a refund is midnight, January 29, 2027. We are not able to provide course refunds after this date for any student. Students interested in withdrawing must submit a request in writing to Deb by the deadline.

Student Expectations

The Extension Master Gardener course is a 16-week commitment. To be successful, we expect students to commit the time it takes to watch the weekly lectures, do the weekly readings, take the weekly quizzes, and complete all assignments on time. We estimate that Track 1 students devote about 6 hours per week to successfully complete the course and Track 2 students may spend 3 to 5 hours each week to complete assignments, quizzes, and watch recorded sessions.

Expectations of Track 1 (Volunteer Track) Students:

Course grades are dependent on our students' abilities to complete assignments on time. We know that our students lead busy lives and have accounted in our grading for a few missed assignments that may crop up during the course; however, repeated absences or skipped assignments will likely result in poor course performance and an inability to proceed with program participation. Therefore, Track 1 students should:

- Commit to completing course assignments on time, including weekly readings, pre-recorded lectures, quizzes (by midnight on Thursdays), final exam, course project, and pre- and post-course surveys.
- Submit weekly questions based on the lectures and reading assignments for the instructors by no later than midnight on Tuesdays.
- Attend weekly Zoom sessions on Thursdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

In addition, Track 1 students must:

- Complete volunteerism paperwork during the first week of the course: Volunteer Application, a background check consent form; and our Minor Protection Training. Failure to complete the volunteerism paperwork on time jeopardizes your Track 1 status and you may be asked to move to Track 2 to complete the course.
- After successfully completing the course, Track 1 students participate in a 40-hour volunteer internship (over 2 years). The purpose of the internship is to gain volunteer experience after the course by working under the mentorship of Extension Master Gardener volunteers. All volunteer hours to become a Certified Master Gardener must be conducted at approved projects or approved volunteer activities. Track 1 students should carefully assess their capacity to complete the 40-hour internship to become a Certified Master Gardener volunteer. Extension Master Gardener volunteers are considered representatives of the University of Vermont and share research-based gardening information with Vermonters through public presentations; tabling and displays at fairs, farmers' markets and other outlets; Extension Master Gardener Helpline; and/or assisting with Extension Master Gardener or Composter approved community projects.

Switching Tracks: Should you find that you are no longer able to commit to the volunteer requirements of Track 1, please notify Deb as soon as possible so that we can switch you to the self-paced Track 2; the deadline to switch tracks is Feb. 12. If you switch to Track 2, you will have access to all course materials and will receive recognition of course completion with a Home Horticulture Certificate upon successfully completing all assignments by May 7.

Expectations of Track 2 (At-Your-Own-Pace) Students:
If interested in a Home Horticulture Certificate, Track 2 students must complete the course quizzes and final exam by May 7. Track 2 students have access to all course materials on the site, including lectures, recordings of weekly Q&A sessions, reading assignments, and other resources. If you successfully complete the course, you will receive a "Home Horticulture" certificate of completion.

Behavior Expectations
By participating in the course, you agree to abide by the University of Vermont's Our Common Ground:

- **Respect.** We respect each other. We listen to each other, encourage each other and care about each other. We are strengthened by our diverse perspectives.
- **Integrity.** We value fairness, honest conduct, adherence to the facts, and sincerity.
- **Innovation.** We want to be at the forefront of change. We believe the best way to lead is to learn from our successes and mistakes.
- **Openness.** We encourage the open exchange of information and ideas.
- **Justice.** We unite against all forms of injustice, including racism. We challenge injustice toward any member of our community.
- **Responsibility.** We are responsible for our words and actions.

You may be asked to leave the course if your behavior:

- Poses a threat to the health or safety of participants or others;
- Threatens to disrupt the offering;
- May seriously diminish the experience of others; or
- For other sufficient reason.

The program coordinator will seek to engage with you if concerns arise about your behavior and provide an opportunity for you to correct it. Should concerns persist, the coordinator has complete discretion to ask you to leave or discontinue your participation in the program. There is no refund if you are dismissed.

Course Communication

Course communications occur in a couple of ways. We use discussion boards/forums for class reminders and for course discussions. Posts to these discussion boards automatically send emails to all students, so you should receive course notifications via email. For questions about the course, you can reach out to Deb anytime through direct messaging on the course site. To do so, click on the message block, and find and click on Deb's name and select "message" (this is a private, one-on-one communication). You may also email her at debra.heleba@uvm.edu.

Note: If you do not wish to receive forum emails, you can unsubscribe by clicking "unsubscribe" at the bottom of the email. You can also set the emails to digest mode to receive just one email daily. If you unsubscribe, please be sure to check the discussion board/forum on the course site regularly to keep up to date. It is your responsibility to keep up to date with course communications.

Upon successful completion of the course, Track 1 students are added to our Extension Master Gardener volunteer listserv and newsletter list to receive notification about volunteer opportunities and other program

news. Your email is also shared with volunteer leaders so they can introduce you to other volunteers and project opportunities. You may choose to opt-out of these communications upon request.

Grading Criteria & Policies

Grades are conducted on a points system. For Track 1 students, you must achieve at least 170 out of a total 200 points, or a final grade of 85% or higher, to pass the course and move on to the next step of becoming a volunteer. This means you can miss up to 30 points and pass the course. See below for additional grading criteria.

	Pre- and Post-Surveys	Weekly Instructor Questions	Attendance at Weekly Zoom Meetings	Weekly Quizzes	Final Project	Final Exam	Total
Points per Item	5 pts	4 pts wk 2-15	2 pts wk 2-16	5 pts wk 2-15	14 pts	20 pts	
Total Points	10	56	30	70	14	20	200

For Track 2 students, you must achieve at least 80 out of a total of 100 points or a final grade of 80% to pass the course. as follows.

	Pre- and Post- Surveys	Weekly Quizzes	Instructor Question	Final Exam	Total
Points per Item	5 pts	5 pts wk 2-14	5 pts	20 pts	
Total Points	10	65	5	20	100

Volunteerism Requirements. In addition to the above, Track 1 students must also complete the following on time in order to pass and go on to volunteer. Missing these assignments means you may not proceed to become a volunteer regardless of the number of points you have earned.

- Volunteer Application
- Background check consent form or Fingerprinting
- Minor Protection Training

Pre-Course & Post-Course Surveys. All students are expected to complete a survey at the beginning of the course as well as a survey at the end. Our pre-course survey asks for demographic information necessary for program reporting, used in the aggregate and not associated with individuals. Pre- and post-course survey information is also used to improve the course. Completion of each survey will be used in calculating your grade (5 points each, credit/no credit).

Quizzes. The course uses weekly quizzes (5 points each); they are open-book, multiple-choice questions. You can take each quiz 2 times. Your highest grade will be used in calculating your grade.

Final Project. Track 1 students are asked to create an educational presentation or product (fact sheet, infographic, etc.) on a gardening topic of their choice. Development will occur throughout the course and the final project is submitted in Week 16 (14 points).

Final Exam. There is a 20-question final exam at the end of the course (20 points). The exam is open-book and multiple choice, and you may take it two times if necessary. Your highest grade will be used in calculating your grade.

Instructor Questions. To help solidify your learning each week, we require Track 1 students to submit a weekly question or comment based on the lecture and readings; these are submitted to the instructor and are addressed in our weekly Zoom meetings. Questions are due each week on Tuesdays by midnight. For Track 1 students, submission of weekly questions account for 4 points each week (wks 2-15). Track 2 students must submit at least one question (worth 5 points) during the course; Track 2 students may submit additional questions but those are completely optional (must be submitted by the Tuesday deadline).

Weekly Zoom Meetings. Track 1 students are required to attend the real-time Zoom meetings on Thursdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. ET where instructors answer submitted questions (2 points each for wks 2-16). The sessions are recorded and posted on the course portal; recordings may be accessed by both Track 1 and Track 2 students. Track 2 students do not attend the real-time meetings but have access to all recordings.

Late Work. Please make sure to carefully review the list of weekly assignments with their deadlines. Plan to access the course site weekly and scan your email for reminders. Due to the large volume of students enrolled in this course, **late or missed assignments will not be accepted**, and we cannot make special arrangements for students. We completely understand that extenuating circumstances occur (life happens!) which is why we require scores of 85/80% to pass the course, allowing you to miss a few assignments should something happen during the course. Again, please carefully assess your ability to meet the requirements of the course and keep up with the weekly assignments. If you are not able to keep up with the schedule and assigned due dates, please choose Track 2.

Recording Class Sessions

Our Track 1 class discussion sessions are audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back to, and for students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who unmute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the chat feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live.

Use of AI Meeting Assistants and Notetakers. To protect the privacy of students and guest speakers, the use of third-party AI meeting assistants, AI notetakers, transcript generators, recording bots, or similar automated tools during live Zoom sessions is prohibited. Students may not invite external applications or bots into course meetings, create independent recordings, or generate automated transcripts without prior written permission from the course coordinator. Official course recordings provided by the program are the only authorized recordings of course sessions.

Intellectual Property Statement/Prohibition on Sharing Academic Materials

Students are prohibited from publicly sharing or selling academic materials that they did not author (for example: class syllabus, outlines or class presentations authored by the instructor, copyrighted materials, etc.). According to UVM policy, all course recordings are for personal, educational use only and may not be shared or posted online. Students are prohibited from sharing assessments (for example homework or a take-home examination). Violations will be handled under UVM's Intellectual Property policy and Code of Academic Integrity.

Student Learning Accommodations

In keeping with University policy, any student with a documented disability interested in utilizing ADA accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS), the office of Disability Services on

campus for students. SAS works with students and faculty in an interactive process to explore reasonable and appropriate accommodations, which are communicated to Deb in an accommodation letter. All students are strongly recommended to discuss with Deb the accommodations they plan to use in each course. Upon receiving Letters of Accommodation with Disability Related Flexible accommodations, Deb will complete the Disability Related Flexibility Agreement. Any questions about the agreement should be directed to the SAS specialist who is indicated on the letter. Please contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at: access@uvm.edu or 802-656-7753, www.uvm.edu/access.

FERPA Rights Disclosure

The purpose of UVM's FERPA Rights Disclosure is to communicate the rights of students regarding access to, and privacy of their student educational records as provided for in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974.

Religious Holidays

Students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. If you need to miss class to observe a religious holiday, please submit the dates of your absence to Deb in writing by the end of the second full week of classes. You will be permitted to make up work within a mutually agreed-upon time.

Course Outline / Weekly Schedule

This is a hybrid online course requiring both asynchronous (at your own pace) work and live weekly Zoom course discussions for Track 1 (volunteer track) students. Over the course of the sixteen weeks, here's what you can expect.

Each new module opens on Fridays at 5:00 pm ET, starting on January 15, 2027.

Each week, Track 1 students are required to do the following.

- Watch the pre-recorded lecture(s) assigned that week.
- Do the readings for the week.
- Post one question/comment you have for the instructor about the lecture and/or reading by no later than midnight each Tuesday.
- *Attend the live course discussion session on Zoom each Thursday night from 6 to 7:30 pm ET. (*Only Track 1 students attend the live course discussions; Track 2 students have access to the recordings).
- Complete the weekly 5-question quiz no later than midnight on Friday.

Track 2 (at your own pace) students navigate the course at their own speed and need to finish the course (including quizzes and surveys) by May 7. Track 2 students do not participate in the live weekly Zoom course discussions but do interact with fellow students within the course site through discussion forums and do have access to all recorded sessions.

Optional Exercises. To help Track 1 students prepare for volunteerism and to solidify weekly lessons, all students will be invited to respond to optional exercises throughout the course. Most exercises are examples of questions from Vermonters received through the program's Helpline.

The pacing guide for the 2027 course is posted as follows. Module timing is subject to change based on instructor availability – advanced notice will be given if any changes in the schedule occur.

Pacing Guide

The pacing guide outlines assignments and due dates week-by-week to help you with scheduling your time.

Wk	Dates	Topic & Instructor	Description	Assignments & Due Dates
1	1/15-1/22	**Welcome. Course Introduction.** Instructor: Deb Heleba	We'll start the course by getting to know one another through virtual introductions. Deb Heleba will provide an introduction and answer any logistical questions you may have. This week, you will take time to familiarize yourself with the navigation features of the course, learn how to ask questions, and locate where to read and post announcements.	1/19: Post your introduction by midnight. 1/19: Submit your weekly question/comment by midnight. 1/21: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. for Track 1 students. 1/22: Complete pre-course survey by midnight. 1/22: Track 1 students complete program volunteer requirements by midnight. (No quiz this week.)
2	1/22-1/29	**Soil Health.** Instructor: Dr. Wendy Sue Harper	Creating healthy soil is all about managing your garden soils to enhance the beneficial processes and cycles so your soil and plants are more able to withstand damage caused by insects and diseases. Dr. Harper will cover healthy soils as key components of using an integrated pest management approach to gardening sustainability.	View lecture. Read Chapter 4: Soil Health and Fertility Management. Optional: Conduct Optional Activity. Optional: Read Chapter 5: Composting. 1/26: Submit weekly question by midnight. 1/28: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. for Track 1 students. 1/29: Complete weekly quiz by midnight (Track 1). 1/29: Last day to withdraw from course for full refund.
3	1/29-2/5	**Vegetable Garden Planning.** Instructor: Dr. Wendy Sue Harper	Dr. Harper will dive into the topic of planning and preparing for your vegetable garden.	View lecture. Read Chapter 10: The Vegetable Garden. Optional: Complete Veggie Garden Planning Activity. 2/2: Submit weekly question by midnight. 2/4: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. for Track 1 2/5: Complete weekly quiz by midnight (Track 1).

Wk	Dates	Topic & Instructor	Description	Assignments & Due Dates
4	2/5-2/12	**Botany Basics.** Instructor: Amy Ivy	Ever wonder about the science behind what makes plants work? Cornell University emeritus professor Amy Ivy will take you on a fascinating journey to learn about the classification, relationships, structure, and function of plants.	View lecture. Read Chapter 2: Basic Botany. Optional: Watch Botany videos. Optional: Read Chapter 3: Plant Propagation. 2/9: Submit weekly question by midnight. 2/11: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. for Track 1 students. 2/12: Complete weekly quiz by midnight (Track 1).
5	2/12-2/19	**Herbaceous Plants.** Instructor: Amy Ivy	Successful flower gardens start with the right plant in the right place. This means selecting a plant that fits the growing conditions of your site. All too often we select only for color, shape, or size. In this module, Amy Ivy will share with you how to better mix perennials, annuals, and bulbs into your garden design while also considering your growing conditions. Amy will guide you to a better understanding of the principles of planting and maintaining annuals and perennials so you can create a season full of beauty in your landscape.	View lecture. Read Chapter 17: Herbaceous Plants. 2/16: Submit weekly question by midnight. 2/18: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. for Track 1 students. 2/19: Complete weekly quiz by midnight (Track 1).
6	2/19-2/26	**Entomology Basics.** Instructor: Dr. Vic Izzo	Have you ever wanted to learn more about how insects live? Or wondered how to identify the damage they do? In this module, we will introduce you to the fascinating world of insects. We will cover the internal and external structures and functions of insects. You will also learn the basics of classification and identification.	View lecture. Read Chapter 7: Basics of Entomology (pages 148-174). Optional: Complete Entomology Practice Activities. 2/23: Submit weekly question by midnight. 2/25: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. for Track 1. 2/26: Complete weekly quiz by midnight (Track 1).

Wk	Dates	Topic & Instructor	Description	Assignments & Due Dates
7	2/26-3/5	**Entomology & IPM.** Instructor: Dr. Vic Izzo	This week, we will continue to discuss garden insects and will dive deeper into Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM is a proactive approach to managing pests where the emphasis is on monitoring and cultural, mechanical and biological controls, and chemical controls are used as a last resort.	View lecture. Read Chapter 6: Controlling Pests Safely and Chapter 7: Basics of Entomology (pages 174-182). Read the UVM Extension Master Gardener Integrated Pest Management brochure. Optional: Complete Entomology Practice Activity. 3/2: Submit weekly question by midnight. 3/4: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. for Track 1. 3/5: Complete weekly quiz by midnight (Track 1).
8	3/5-3/12	**Plant Diseases.** Instructor: Dr. Ann Hazelrigg	What is the nature of plant disease and its management, and how does it affect humans and the environment? Dr. Hazelrigg will discuss organisms and environmental conditions that cause diseases in plants. She will help you learn to identify, prevent, and manage diseases in your home gardens.	View lecture. Read Chapter 8: Plant Diseases. Optional: Complete Plant Disease Activity. 3/9: Submit weekly question by midnight. 3/11: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. for Track 1. 3/12: Complete weekly quiz by midnight (Track 1).
This marks the halfway point in the course! Deb will provide a grade check-in after 3/20.				
9	3/12-3/19	**Vegetable Gardening.** Instructor: Dr. Becky Maden	Ready Set Grow! Getting a vegetable garden started can be an overwhelming and intimidating process. In this module, Dr. Maden will provide you with the skills and confidence you need to finally wrap your head around what you need to get your garden off the starting line.	View lecture. Read/review Chapter 10: The Vegetable Garden. Optional: Complete Veggie Garden Practice Activity. 3/16: Submit weekly question by midnight. 3/18: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. for Track 1. 3/19: Complete weekly quiz by midnight (Track 1).
10	3/19-3/26	**Tree Fruit.** Instructor: Dr. Terry Bradshaw	What do fruit trees need to survive and thrive? In this module, Dr. Bradshaw will address deciduous tree fruit growing topics such as choosing varieties, site selection, soil preparation, planting, pruning, maintenance, and disease prevention.	View lecture. Read Chapter 13: Tree Fruit. Optional: Complete Tree Fruit Activity. 3/23: Submit weekly question by midnight. 3/25: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. for Track 1. 3/26: Complete weekly quiz by midnight (Track 1).

Wk	Dates	Topic & Instructor	Description	Assignments & Due Dates
11	3/26-4/2	**Small Fruit.** Instructor: Laura McDermott	We will focus on strawberries, blueberries, and raspberries in this week's module. Laura McDermott will cover the principles of preparation, planting, and maintenance of these small fruits. Common insects and diseases will also be addressed.	View lecture. Read Chapter 14: Small Fruit. Optional: Complete Small Fruit Activity. 3/30: Submit weekly question by midnight. 4/1: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. for Track 1. 4/2: Complete weekly quiz by midnight (Track 1).
12	4/2-4/9	**Pollinator Plants.** Instructor: Jane Sorensen	Want your garden to be abuzz with activity? Jane Sorensen will teach you about the role and status of pollinators in the US, and how to design a healthy landscape with native plants to encourage pollinators to thrive.	View lecture. Read Chapter 21: Garden Wildlife (pages 680-691). Read "Resources for Pollinator Habitat Enhancement". Read "Vermont Pollinator Palette with Common Names". Read "Homestead Pollinator Habitat Guidelines & Options for the Homescale". 4/6: Submit weekly question by midnight. 4/8: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. for Track 1. 4/9: Complete weekly quiz by midnight (Track 1).
13	4/9-4/16	**Tree Care.** Instructor: Adam McCullough	In this module, you will learn all about "treerrific" trees and their biology. Adam McCullough will cover tree selection and planting, and maintenance practice.	View lecture. Read Chapter 16: Woody Ornamentals (pages 497-528) and Chapter 12: Pruning Ornamental Plants (pages 341-361). 4/13: Submit weekly question by midnight. 4/15: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. for Track 1. 4/16: Complete weekly quiz by midnight (Track 1).
14	4/16-4/23	**Introduced ("invasive") Plants.** Instructor: Emilie Inoue	This module addresses the concepts of native vs introduced and nonnative plants and examines their roles in natural and managed landscapes. We will learn how plant species are introduced and spread, and characteristics that enable some nonnative species to become problematic.	View lecture. Read Chapter 20: Invasive Species (pages 642-652). Optional: Read Chapter 19: Weeds (pages 610-617). 4/20: Submit weekly question by midnight. 4/22: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. for Track 1. 4/23: Complete weekly quiz by midnight (Track 1).

Wk	Dates	Topic & Instructor	Description	Assignments & Due Dates
15	4/23-4/30	**Volunteerism.** Instructor: Deb Heleba	*For Track 1 students only. During this week, Track 1 students will learn more about the structure and benefits of the Extension Master Gardener volunteer program. You will learn about becoming an Extension Master Gardener intern and how to earn volunteer hours. Also covered will be best practices for public outreach and education, including how to answer questions from the public.	View lecture. Read Chapter 1: Teaching and Communication. Review Volunteer Portal at: https://www.uvm.edu/extension/mastergardener/volunteer-portal. 4/27: Submit weekly question by midnight. 4/29: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. for Track 1. 4/30: Complete weekly quiz by midnight (Track 1).
16	4/30-5/7	**Wrap Up.** Instructor: Deb Heleba	During the final week of the class, you will complete a final exam and post-course survey. Track 1 students will meet in small groups and we will discuss next steps as Extension Master Gardener interns.	5/6: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. for Track 1. 5/7: Track 1 students submit final projects. 5/7: Track 2 students complete all weekly quizzes. 5/7: Complete post-course survey by midnight. 5/7: Complete final exam.
The course is completed. Deb will provide final grades after 5/7. Students who pass (see grading) will then have access to certificates of completion.				
	6/6	Access to online course materials closes.		