



Welcome to the

Updated Jan 30, 2023

# 2023 UVM Extension Master Gardener Course

Non-Credit Extension Course

## Course Syllabus

### Course Description

As our signature course, the UVM Extension Master Gardener course is designed to train volunteers to become certified Master Gardeners 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 industry experts. The course is offered online at [campus.extension.org](https://campus.extension.org) where you, as a student, work through 16 course modules that contain course materials, pre-recorded lectures, and homework assignments.

We offer two tracks:

- 1) Track 1 is our volunteer track, meant for students who'd like to become a certified Extension Master Gardener volunteer and give back to their communities with gardening education and support. 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.
- 2) Track 2 is our learn-at-your-own-pace track that is offered to Vermonters who are not interested in a volunteer commitment and for participants outside of Vermont. Students have access to all course content (including recordings of lectures and discussion sessions) and are able to navigate the course at their leisure.

### Meeting Times & Location

The online course portal opens on Friday, January 20, 2023 and closes on May 25. Each week on Friday at 5 p.m. ET, we open a new course module to focus on 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 at 6 to 7:30 p.m. ET from January 26 to May 11. 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. 18: Registration ends

Jan. 20: Course opens at 5 p.m.

Jan. 26, Feb. 2, Feb. 9, Feb. 16, Feb. 23, Mar. 2, Mar. 9, Mar. 16, Mar. 23, Mar. 30, Apr. 6, Apr. 13, Apr. 20, Apr. 27, May 4, May 11: Live Q&A Zoom sessions with Instructors for Track 1 students.

Jan. 27: Final date to drop course and request a refund.

Feb. 17: Deadline for Track 1 students to switch to Track 2.

May 12: Final assignments due by midnight. No exceptions.

May 25: Course access ends.

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## **Course Learning Objectives**

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

- Understand the general Vermont growing conditions 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/Clubs.
- 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 but 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. 26.

**Moodle.** The course uses Moodle 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>.

Viewing pre-recorded class lectures and other assigned readings are required to successfully complete the course. In addition, all course modules offer optional supplementary resources for further education on each topic addressed. **Note for Track 1 Students:** We use Zoom for our weekly live course discussions. 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](mailto:debra.heleba@uvm.edu) or phone at 802.656.1777. Learn more about our staff at: [www.uvm.edu/extension/mastergardener/contact-us](http://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 2023 course, they include Dr. Terry Bradshaw, Joanne Garton, Dr. Wendy Sue Harper, Dr. Ann Hazelrigg, Deb Heleba, Judith Irven, Amy Ivy, Dr. Vic Izzo, Becky Maden, Laura McDermott, and Jane Sorensen.

## **Refund Policy**

The final date to drop out of the course and request a refund is Friday, January 27, 2023. We are not able to provide course refunds after this date for any students (Track 1 or Track 2). However, if unforeseen circumstances arise that mean you will not be able to complete the course, you may provide a written request to Deb to defer your participation to the following year's course.

## **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 heavily 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 all course assignments on time, including weekly readings, pre-recorded lectures, quizzes (by midnight on Fridays), final exam, 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 all 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 (if you have lived in Vermont for more than a year) or fingerprinting process (if you have lived in Vermont for less than a year); 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.
- Upon 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. 17. 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 25.

### **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 before the course closes. 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 complete all quizzes and the final exam by May 25, 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 discussions 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](mailto: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.

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

To pass the course, you must receive a score of 80% or higher.

For Track 1 students, you must achieve at least 160 out of a total 200 points as follows.

	Pre- and Post-Surveys	Weekly Discussion Questions	Attendance at Weekly Zoom Meetings	Weekly Quizzes	Final Exam	Total
Points per Item	5	4	3 (2 pts for wk 1)	5	20	
Total Points	10	56	44	70	20	200

For Track 2 students, you must achieve at least 80 out of a total of 100 points as follows.

	Pre- and Post-Surveys	Weekly Quizzes	Final Exam	Total
Points per Item	5	5	20	
Total Points	10	70	20	100

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 do not pass the course 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. The surveys will be confidential and results are used to improve the course. Completion of each survey will be used in calculating your grade.

**Quizzes.** The course uses weekly quizzes; they are open-book, multiple choice questions. You can take the quizzes 2 times. Your highest grade will be used in calculating your grade.

**Final Exam.** There is a 20-question final exam at the end of the course. 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.

**Weekly Instructor Questions.** To help solidify your learning each week, we require Track 1 students to submit a weekly question 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. Submission of weekly questions account for 4 points each week and will be used in calculating your grade. Although completely optional, Track 2 may submit weekly questions by midnight on Tuesdays too.

**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. 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 may view the 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. We completely understand that extenuating circumstances occur (life happens!) which is why we require a score of 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 or assignment due dates, please choose Track 2. This is a firm policy, please do not ask for late credit.

## **Recording Class Sessions**

Our Track 1 class discussion sessions will be 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.

## **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.); and 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](mailto:access@uvm.edu) or 802-656-7753  
A170 Living/Learning Center, [www.uvm.edu/access](http://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 20, 2023.

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

- Watch a pre-recorded lecture between Friday night and Wednesday night.
- Do the reading between Friday night and Wednesday night.
- Post one question you have for the instructor about the lecture and/or reading by no later than midnight on 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 25. 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.

The schedule for the 2023 course is as follows. Module releases are subject to change based on instructor availability – advanced notice will be given if any changes in the schedule occur.

### **Week 1: Course Introduction. January 20-27**

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.

#### **Assignments**

- Review the course syllabus.
- Post an introduction of yourself to the class in the Discussion Forum.
- Submit weekly question.
- Complete the pre-course survey.
- Track 1 students should complete program volunteer requirements (volunteer application, background check form, and Minor Protection Training).

#### **Dates & Deadlines**

- Jan 20: Module opens at 5 p.m.
- Jan 24: Post your introduction and submit question by midnight.
- Jan 26: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m.
- Jan 27: Complete pre-course survey by midnight.
- Jan 27: Track 1 students complete program volunteer requirements by midnight.

## **Week 2: Botany Basics. January 27-February 3**

Instructor: Amy Ivy

Ever wonder about the science behind what makes plants work? Cornell University's Amy Ivy will take you on a fascinating journey to learn about the classification, relationships, structure, and function of plants.

### **Assignments**

- View lecture.
- Read Chapter 2: Master Gardener Manual.
- Submit weekly question.
- Optional: Watch Botany videos.
- Optional: Complete Plant Classifications worksheet.

### **Dates & Deadlines**

- Jan 27: Module opens at 5 p.m.
- Jan 31: Submit weekly question by midnight.
- Feb 2: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m.
- Feb 3: Complete weekly quiz by midnight.

## **Week 3: Soil Health. February 3-10**

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 to using an integrated pest management approach to gardening sustainability.

### **Assignments**

- View lecture.
- Read Chapters 4 and 5: Master Gardener Manual.
- Submit weekly question.
- Optional: Watch soils videos.
- Optional: Complete soils worksheet.

### **Dates & Deadlines**

- Feb 3: Module opens at 5 p.m.
- Feb 7: Submit weekly question by midnight.
- Feb 9: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m.
- Feb 10: Complete weekly quiz by midnight.

## **Week 4: Herbaceous Plants. February 10-17**

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

## **Assignments**

- View lecture.
- Read Chapter 17: Master Gardener Manual.
- Submit weekly question.

## **Dates & Deadlines**

- Feb 10: Module opens at 5 p.m.
- Feb 14: Submit weekly question by midnight.
- Feb 16: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m.
- Feb 17: Complete weekly quiz by midnight.

## **Week 5: Vegetable Garden Planning. February 17-24**

Instructor: Dr. Wendy Sue Harper

Dr. Harper will dive into the topic of planning and preparing for your vegetable garden.

## **Assignments**

- View lecture.
- Read Chapter 10: Master Gardener Manual.
- Submit weekly question.
- Optional: Complete Veggie Garden Planning Activity.

## **Dates & Deadlines**

- Feb 17: Module opens at 5 p.m.
- Feb 21: Submit weekly question by midnight.
- Feb 23: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m.
- Feb 24: Complete weekly quiz by midnight.

## **Week 6: Entomology Basics. February 24-March 3**

Instructor: Dr. Vic Izzo

Have you ever wanted to learn more about how insects live? Or wondered how to identify the damage they do? Or maybe you've been curious about which insects are good and which are bad for the garden? In this module, Dr. Izzo will introduce you to the fascinating world of insects. He will cover the internal and external structures and functions of insects. You will also learn the basics of classification and identification.

## **Assignments**

- View lecture.
- Read Chapter 7 pages 148-174: Master Gardener Manual.
- Submit weekly question.
- Optional: Complete Entomology Practice Activity.

## **Dates & Deadlines**

- Feb 24: Module opens at 5 p.m.
- Feb 28: Submit weekly question by midnight.
- Mar 2: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m.
- Mar 3: Complete weekly quiz by midnight.

## **Week 7: Entomology & IPM. March 3-10**

Instructor: Dr. Vic Izzo

This week, Dr. Izzo 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.

### **Assignments**

- View lecture.
- Read Chapters 6 and 7 (pages 174-182): Master Gardener Manual.
- Submit weekly question.
- Optional: Complete Entomology Practice Activity.

### **Dates & Deadlines**

- Mar 3: Module opens at 5 p.m.
- Mar 7: Submit weekly question by midnight.
- Mar 9: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m.
- Mar 10: Complete weekly quiz by midnight.

## **Week 8: Plant Diseases. March 10-17**

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. Ann will help you to learn to identify, prevent, and manage disease in your home garden.

### **Assignments**

- View lecture.
- Read Chapter 8: Master Gardener Manual.
- Submit weekly question.
- Optional: Complete Plant Disease Activity.

### **Dates & Deadlines**

- Mar 10: Module opens at 5 p.m.
- Mar 14: Submit weekly question by midnight.
- Mar 16: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m.
- Mar 17: Complete weekly quiz by midnight.

## **Week 9: Vegetable Gardening. March 17-24**

Instructor: Becky Maden

Ready Set Grow! Getting a vegetable garden started can be an overwhelming and intimidating process. In this module, Becky 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. Becky makes vegetable gardening fun!

### **Assignments**

- View lecture.
- Read Chapter 10: Master Gardener Manual.
- Submit weekly question.
- Optional: Complete Vegetable Garden Activity.

## Dates & Deadlines

- Mar 17: Module opens at 5 p.m.
- Mar 21: Submit weekly question by midnight.
- Mar 23: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m.
- Mar 24: Complete weekly quiz by midnight.

## Week 10: Tree Fruit. March 24-31

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.

## Assignments

- View lecture.
- Read Chapter 13: Master Gardener Manual.
- Submit weekly question.
- Optional: Complete Tree Fruit Activity.

## Dates & Deadlines

- Mar 24: Module opens at 5 p.m.
- Mar 28: Submit weekly question by midnight.
- Mar 29: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m.
- Mar 31: Complete weekly quiz by midnight.

## Week 11: Pollinator Plants. March 31-April 7

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.

## Assignments

- View lecture.
- Read Chapter 21: Master Gardener Manual.
- Read "Resources for Pollinator Habitat Enhancement".
- Read "Vermont Pollinator Palette with Common Names"
- Read "Homestead Pollinator Habitat Guidelines & Options for the Homescale"
- Submit weekly question.
- Optional: Complete Pollinator Plant Activity.

## Dates & Deadlines

- Mar 31: Module opens at 5 p.m.
- Apr 4: Submit weekly question by midnight.
- Apr 6: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m.
- Apr 7: Complete weekly quiz by midnight.

## **Week 12: Tree Care. April 7-14**

Instructor: Joanne Garton

In this module, you will learn all about "treerrific" trees and their biology. Joanne Garton will cover tree selection and planting, and maintenance practice.

### **Assignments**

- View lecture.
- Read Chapter 16 and 12: Master Gardener Manual.
- Submit weekly question.
- Optional: Complete Tree Care Activity.

### **Dates & Deadlines**

- Apr 7: Module opens at 5 p.m.
- Apr 11: Submit weekly question by midnight.
- Apr 13: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m.
- Apr 14: Complete weekly quiz by midnight.

## **Week 13: Small Fruit. April 14-21**

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.

### **Assignments**

- View lecture.
- Read Chapter 14: Master Gardener Manual.
- Submit weekly question.
- Optional: Complete Small Fruit Activity.

### **Dates & Deadlines**

- Apr 14: Module opens at 5 p.m.
- Apr 18: Submit weekly question by midnight.
- Apr 20: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m.
- Apr 21: Complete weekly quiz by midnight.

## **Week 14: Landscape Design. April 21-28**

Instructor: Judith Irven

Every garden should start with a good plan. In this module, Judith Irven teaches you how to design a landscape that is both easy on the gardener and gentle on the earth. She will address design aspects that create contrasting shapes, heights, and textures, season by season, in the garden.

### **Assignments**

- View lecture.
- Read Chapters 15 and 18 (Skip section called "Pennsylvania's Landscape"): Master Gardener Manual.
- Submit weekly question.
- Optional: Complete Landscape Design Activity.

## Dates & Deadlines

- Apr 21: Module opens at 5 p.m.
- Apr 25: Submit weekly question by midnight.
- Apr 27: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m.
- Apr 28: Complete weekly quiz by midnight.

## \*Week 15: Volunteerism--Reaching and Teaching Vermonters. April 28-May 5

Instructor: Deb Heleba

\*For Track 1 students.

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.

## Assignments

- View lecture.
- Read Chapter 1: Master Gardener Manual.
- Review Volunteer Portal at: [www.uvm.edu/node/249627](http://www.uvm.edu/node/249627).
- Submit weekly question.

## Dates & Deadlines

- Apr 28: Module opens at 5 p.m.
- May 2: Submit weekly question by midnight.
- May 4: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m.
- May 5: Complete weekly quiz by midnight.

## Week 16: Final Assignments. May 5-12

Instructor: Deb Heleba

During the final week of the class, you will complete a final exam and post-course survey. Track 1 students will discuss next steps as Extension Master Gardener interns.

## Assignments

- Complete final exam.
- Complete post-course survey.

## Dates & Deadlines

- May 5: Module opens at 5 p.m.
- May 11: Zoom meeting at 6 p.m.
- May 12: Complete final exam and post-course survey by midnight.

## Course closes, May 25

The course portal closes at midnight on May 25. Track 2 students should plan to complete all quizzes and the final exam by May 25 to earn a Home Horticulture Certificate.