



Green School Course Syllabus

MASTER GARDENER
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Course Information

Curriculum is created by a statewide team and coordinated locally to be offered in communities across Colorado. Course content is developed using research- and evidenced-based horticultural information approved by Colorado State University. Course format may vary by region and county. All students will take online classes as part of their curriculum, utilizing Colorado State University Online's platform called Canvas, and utilize Zoom for live courses and weekly reviews.

Course Instruction

Your best point of contact for questions and information is your local county staff. Look up your local county staff at <http://extension.colostate.edu/staff-directory/>

Course Objective

The purpose of Green School training is to teach interested participants in relevant, evidenced-based horticultural information specific to our regions in Colorado. Non-volunteers are also enrolled in Green School – as Colorado Gardener Certificate students but pay a higher price to attend training. Colorado Master Gardener Apprentices receive reduced tuition in return for their volunteer service commitment following training. Regardless of the program, all participants will receive a certificate, but only volunteers go on to volunteer locally and earn the title of Colorado Master Gardener.

Colorado Master Gardeners (CMG) are **volunteers** trained in horticulture by Colorado State University Extension staff. They assist Colorado State University Extension staff in delivering research-based gardening information to foster successful gardening in Colorado communities. The CMG Volunteer's audience is exclusively individual, home/backyard gardeners. CMG training provides the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve the goals of CMG volunteers in Colorado counties.

Course Schedule

The schedule is included in this syllabus and posted online at <http://ColoradoMasterGardener.org> > GardenNotes. This schedule is subject to change but as much advanced notice as possible will be given and all courses will be recorded and posted online in Canvas.

Course Materials

GardenNotes is your online reference 'textbook' and curriculum for this course. *There is no hardcopy version available.* Access *GardenNotes* online at ColoradoMasterGardener.org > Volunteer Resources > *GardenNotes*.

READINGS: The *GardenNotes* readings are not required. Rather, these serve as a reference material and a supplement to your online and webinar courses. Apprentices are encouraged to print or save a copy of the [Colorado Master Gardener Volunteer Handbook](#).

HOMEWORK: The homework and worksheets are optional but are there to enhance your learning. Some of these worksheets/homework will be used for activities in the weekly live reviews, but not all. If you have questions on the material in these worksheets – please contact the instructor for that subject.

RESOURCES TO STAY ORGANIZED: See the *Reading, Homework and Worksheet List* for more detailed information for each class. The *Student Training Guide* is a printable week-by-week guide that may be useful for taking notes and staying organized.

Instructional Methods

This course utilizes self-paced online courses, live (& recorded) courses and weekly reviews for multi-modal adult learning and flexibility to meet your scheduling needs. **You will need access to a laptop or desktop computer, updated internet browser software, and reliable internet access.**

ONLINE COURSES: All students will have access to online classes offered through CSU Online's **Canvas** platform. To gain access to these courses, you'll need to register using a link provided by your local coordinator. **Instructions for registering and links to Canvas will be emailed to you the first week of January.** Once you have access to Canvas, you can always find a link to login on the GardenNotes webpage. *To earn your certificate, you'll need to complete 7 online courses by taking the post test for each course you complete.*

WEEKLY LIVE REVIEWS: Each week you have an online class, you'll join a weekly "Live Review" webinar session. These reviews are subject-matter specific (based on the topic you studied online) and will be facilitated by a CSU faculty or staff specialist. These serve as your best change to get live questions answered, hear the latest on the topic and enhance your learning by interacting with CSU Horticulture experts. *These will be recorded and posted on Canvas, you are expected to attend at least 5 live classes for certification.*

LIVE WEBINAR CLASSES: Two classes are only offered via live lectures: Colorado Gardening Challenges and Plant Pathology. Attendance is strongly encouraged – you won't want to miss these important topics! A recording will be posted in Canvas the week after the live course. *There is a post-test in Canvas for each of these courses that are required for certification.*

Course Policies

Follow your course schedule for class dates and online class deadlines. Readings should be available to reference while taking the online and live classes. The optional homework is intended to be done following an in-person or online class. Worksheets may be done on a weekly live review or on your own.

Earning Your Certificate

To obtain certification, trainees must:

- Complete 7 online classes and complete an online post-test for each class
- Attend (or watch the recording of) 2 live classes and complete an online post-test for each class
- Attend at least 5 weekly class review sessions (Apprentices are highly encouraged to attend ALL)
- Pass the comprehensive final (open-book, research encouraged) with a 70% or better by the due date posted in your schedule
- Note: *Your score for pre- and post-tests do not affect your grade, only your final exam score and attendance determines passing.*

Upon completion of course requirements, you'll receive a **Colorado Gardener Certificate**. The Colorado Gardener Certificate may be displayed in a place of business and used in business marketing. The title of 'Master Gardener' is a registered service mark and only to be used for CSU Extension events and purposes.

Master Gardener Apprentices who drop out of the program prior to completing the required 50 hours of volunteer service must pay \$15/hour of unmet volunteer service up to \$500 to cover the cost for instruction and staff time. Apprentices should refer to the *Colorado Master Gardener Volunteer Handbook* for additional information and program policies.

Course Evaluation

You will be sent a course evaluation following the training to get your feedback.

Readings, Homework & Worksheets

>> GARDENNOTES IS YOUR ONLINE, REFERENCE FOR THIS COURSE.

Go to <http://ColoradoMasterGardener.org> > Volunteer Resources > GardenNotes

TOPIC	GARDENNOTES READINGS – NOT REQUIRED, FOR REFERENCE	OPTIONAL HOMEWORK	WORKSHEETS – OPTIONAL, IN-CLASS
Soils, Fertilizers & Amendments ONLINE CLASS	#211-251	#252 #253	#252
Botany: How Plants Grow ONLINE CLASS	#121,122, 131-137, #141-145	#155 #150	#151 #152
Science of Planting Trees ONLINE CLASS	#631 -#636		
Care of Trees ONLINE CLASS	#651; #653-659 #652		
Lawn Care / Turf Management ONLINE CLASS	#551- 556	Turf Crossword	#571
Weed Management ONLINE CLASS	#351, #352, #353		#356
Colorado Gardening Challenges LIVE CLASS	No readings, supplemental guides may be posted or emailed.		
Entomology ONLINE CLASS	#311-313	#318	
IPM & Diagnostics ONLINE CLASS	#101, #102	#105 IPM Crossword	#103
Plant Pathology LIVE CLASS	#331-332	#332	#108 #333

TOPIC	GARDENNOTES READINGS – NOT REQUIRED, FOR REFERENCE	OPTIONAL HOMEWORK	WORKSHEETS – OPTIONAL, IN-CLASS
Vegetables ONLINE CLASS	#711-724		
Pruning OPTIONAL ONLINE CLASS	#610-617		
Irrigation Management OPTIONAL ONLINE CLASS	#260-268		
Small Fruit OPTIONAL ONLINE CLASS	#760-764		
Tree Fruit OPTIONAL ONLINE CLASS	#770-771		
CMG Program Overview ONLINE CLASS	#011, #013, #014, #015, #017, #018	CMG Crossword	



Colorado Master Gardener

2021 Apprentice Training Schedule

Date	Course / Format	Live Review Pick One Hosted on Zoom
JANUARY 4-8	Training Introduction Course & Access to Online Classes Opens	Live Class: Jan. 6 at 6-7:30PM Jan. 7 at 9-10:30AM
JANUARY 11-15	Soils, Fertilizers & Amendments Online Class	Interactive Q&A: Jan. 13 at 6-7:30PM Jan. 14 at 9-10:30AM
JANUARY 18-22	Botany: How Plants Grow Online Class	Interactive Q&A: Jan. 20 at 6-7:30PM Jan. 21 at 9-10:30AM
JANUARY 25 -29	The Science of Planting Trees & Care of Woody Plants Online Class	Interactive Q&A: Jan. 27 at 6-7:30PM Jan. 28 at 9-10:30AM
FEBRUARY 1-5	Catch-up / Off week OR take optional/other online courses: Small Fruits, Tree Fruits, Pruning, Irrigation	
FEBRUARY 8-12	Lawn Care / Turfgrass Management Online Class	Interactive Q&A: Feb. 10 at 6-7:30PM Feb. 11 at 9-10:30AM
FEBRUARY 15-19	Weed Management Online Class	Interactive Q&A: Feb 17 at 6-7:30PM Feb 18 at 9-10:30AM
FEBRUARY 24	Colorado Gardening Challenges Live Online Webinar 9AM-3PM (45 Min. lunch break)	Attend live class.

Date	Course / Format	Live Review Pick One Hosted on Zoom
MARCH 1-5	Entomology Online Class	Interactive Q&A: March 3 at 6-7:30PM March 4 at 9-10:30AM
MARCH 8-12	Integrated Pest Management & Plant Diagnostics Online Class	Interactive Q&A: March 10 at 6-7:30PM March 11 at 9-10:30AM
MARCH 17	Plant Pathology Live Online Webinar 9AM-3PM (45 Min. lunch break)	Attend live class.
MARCH 22-26	Vegetables Online Class	Interactive Q&A: March 24 at 6-7:30PM March 25 at 9-10:30AM
MONTH OF APRIL	Local Programming / Optional Online Classes Take other online courses: Small Fruits, Tree Fruits, Pruning, Irrigation	Live Q&A by topic: Thursdays from 9-10:30AM Tree Fruits: 4/1 Small Fruit: 4/8 Pruning: 4/15 Irrigation: 4/22
APRIL 12-16	CMG Program Overview Introduction & Orientation Online Class	Live Orientation: Details vary by county > online/in-person as possible
DUE BY APRIL 30	Final Exam Online; open April 12-30 50 questions 70% to pass Open-book, open-note, research encouraged.	

