



Green School Course Syllabus

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. 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 format may vary by region and county including some in-person, hybrid sessions.*

Course Instruction

For course specific questions, please contact the State Green Team at GreenSchool@colostate.edu and any class instructors listed in Canvas. Your best point of contact for volunteer program 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- and science-based horticultural information specific to our regions in Colorado. This foundational horticulture training is for Colorado State Extension Master Gardener (CMG) Apprentices and Certified Colorado Gardener students. CMGs are trained **volunteers** who assist Colorado State University Extension staff in delivering science-based gardening information to foster successful gardening in Colorado communities. The CMG Volunteer's audience is exclusively individual, home/backyard/community gardeners.

Course Schedule

The schedule is included in this syllabus and posted online at <http://ColoradoMasterGardener.org> > Green School > 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 > Green School > 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.
- **TECHNOLOGY:** You will need access to a laptop or desktop computer, **updated internet browser software** (multiple browsers work well with Canvas, EXCEPT Internet Explorer), a reliable internet access, and an email address.



Instructional Methods

This course utilizes self-paced online courses, live (& recorded) sessions and weekly reviews for multi-modal adult learning and flexibility to meet your scheduling needs.

- **ONLINE COURSES:** All students will have access to online classes offered through CSU Online's **Canvas** platform. When you register for Green School, you will be emailed credentials to login to Canvas. Course access opens October 30, 2023 and allows time for you to orient yourself to the platform during week one.
- **WEEKLY LIVE REVIEWS:** Each week of class, we offer 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 chance to get live questions answered, hear the latest on the topic and enhance your learning by interacting with CSU Horticulture experts. Typically, you only need to attend ONE live review as the content is the same on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings. *These will be recorded and posted in Canvas along with a comprehensive Q&A guide. You are encouraged but not required to attend - we do not take attendance.*

Course Policies

Follow your course schedule for class dates and online class deadlines. **The final exam opens on 3/1/24. You must complete all course requirements by 3/31/24.** Apprentices should refer to the *Colorado Master Gardener Volunteer Handbook* for additional information and program policies.

Earning Your Certificate

To obtain certification, trainees must:

- Complete at least 8 online classes (indicated by completing the quiz after each class)
- Attend weekly class review sessions (Apprentices are highly encouraged but attendance is not taken)
- Pass the comprehensive final (open-book, research encouraged) with a 70% or better by the due date
- Note: *Your score for the quizzes does not affect your grade, only your final exam score and online class completion determines passing.*

CMG Apprentices receive reduced Green School tuition in return for their volunteer service commitment following training. Sometimes plans change and that's OK. **If you decide to switch to the Certified Colorado Gardener program**, you may notify your local program staff and the Green School staff – we will send you a payment portal to pay the registration difference of \$330. All Green School students who complete requirements will receive a certificate, but only Apprentices go on to volunteer locally and earn the title of 'Colorado State Extension Master Gardener.' CMG Apprentices who quit prior to completing the required 50 hours of volunteer service must pay \$15/hour of unmet volunteer service up to \$500 to cover instruction & staff time.

Upon completion of course and volunteer requirements, you will receive a **Colorado State Extension Master Gardener Certificate**. The title of 'Colorado State Extension Master Gardener' is a federally registered trademark of Colorado State University and only to be used for CSU Extension events and purposes.

CMG Program Orientation

County staff will orient you to the local volunteer program. Please complete the *Introduction to the CMG Program* class online prior to orientation and ensure you have a digital copy of the *CMG Volunteer Handbook*.

Course Evaluation

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



Readings, Homework & Worksheets

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

Go to <http://ColoradoMasterGardener.org> > Green School > GardenNotes

Topic	GardenNotes Readings – not required, for reference	Homework Optional	Worksheets Optional, in-class
Soils, Fertilizers & Amendments	#211-215; #218-219; #221-224; #231-234; #241-246; #251		#252
Botany: How Plants Grow	#121, 122, 131-137, #141-145	#155	#151 #152
Tree Identification & Planting	#631-636		
Tree Care	#651- 659	Tree Crossword Puzzles	
IPM & Diagnostics	#101, #102	#105 IPM Crossword Puzzle	#103
Lawn Care/ Turf Management	#551-554; #561-566	Turf Management Crossword Puzzle	#571
Weed Management	#351, #352, #353		#356
Entomology	#311-315	#318	
Plant Pathology	#331	#332	
Colorado Gardening Challenges	Supplemental readings posted online.		




Topic	GardenNotes Readings – not required, for reference	Homework Optional	Worksheets Optional, in-class
Vegetables	#711-724; #731		
Pruning	#611-617		
Tree Fruit	#771		
Small Fruit	#761-764		
Irrigation Management	#261-267		#268



Colorado Master Gardener 2023/24 'Green School' Schedule

Date	Course / Format	Live Review Pick One Hosted on Zoom
October 30 – November 3	Training Introduction Course Online Class	Q&A: Nov. 1 at 6-7:30PM Nov. 2 at 9-10:30AM
November 6 - 17 <i>(Two weeks)</i>	Soils, Fertilizers & Amendments Online Class	Q&A: Nov. 15 at 6-7:30PM Nov. 16 at 9-10:30AM
November 20 – 24	Catch-up / Off week Complete past work or work ahead	<i>No Live Review Class</i>
November 27 – December 1	Botany: How Plants Grow Online Class	Q&A: Nov. 29 at 6-7:30PM Nov. 30 at 9-10:30AM
December 4 – 8	Tree Identification & Planting Online Class - Recorded Lectures	Q&A: Dec. 6 at 6-7:30PM Dec. 7 at 9-10:30AM
December 11 – 15	Tree Care Online Class - Recorded Lectures	Q&A: Dec. 13 at 6-7:30PM Dec. 14 at 9-10:30AM
December 18 – January 5, 2024	Catch-up / Off weeks Complete past work or work ahead	<i>No Live Review Class</i>
January 8 – 12	IPM & Diagnostics Online Class	Q&A: Jan. 10 at 6-7:30PM Jan. 11 at 9-10:30AM
January 15 – 19	Lawn Care / Turfgrass Management Online Class	Q&A: Jan. 17 at 6-7:30PM Jan. 18 at 9-10:30AM



Date	Course / Format	Live Review Pick One Hosted on Zoom
January 22 – 26	Weed Management Online Class	Q&A: Jan. 24 at 6-7:30PM Jan. 25 at 9-10:30AM
January 29 – February 1	Catch-up / Off weeks Complete past work or work ahead	<i>No Live Review Class</i>
February 5 – 9	Entomology Online Class + Optional Recorded Lectures	Q&A: Feb. 7 at 6-7:30PM Feb. 8 at 9-10:30AM
February 12 – 16	Plant Pathology Online Class - Recorded Lectures	Q&A: Feb. 14 at 6-7:30PM Feb. 15 at 9-10:30AM
February 19 – 23	Colorado Gardening Challenges Online Class - Recorded Lectures	Q&A: Feb. 21 at 6-7:30PM Feb. 22 at 9-10:30AM
February 26 – March 1	Vegetables Online Class	Q&A: Feb. 28 at 6-7:30PM Feb. 29 at 9-10:30AM
March 4 – 8	Catch-up / Off week Complete past work or work ahead	<i>No Live Review Class</i>
March 11 – 22	Additional Classes [Optional] Take other online courses: Small Fruits, Tree Fruits, Pruning, Irrigation	Q&A by Topic: Wednesdays 6-7:30PM Thursdays 9-10:30AM Pruning: 3/13 Tree Fruits: 3/14 Small Fruits: 3/20 Irrigation: 3/21
Due By March 31st	Final Exam Online; opens March 1 st 50 questions 70% to pass Open-book, open-note, research encouraged. Does not include material from optional courses.	 MASTER GARDENER COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION