

# 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](mailto: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 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](http://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 November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 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 specialists. 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 3/1/2025. You must complete all course requirements by 3/31/2025.** 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 (3/31/2025)
- 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 \$345. 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
<b>Soils, Fertilizers &amp; Amendments</b>	#211-215; #218-219; #221-224; #231-234; #241-246; #251		#252
<b>Botany: How Plants Grow</b>	#121, #122, #131-137, #141-145	#155	#151 #152
<b>Tree Identification &amp; Planting</b>	#171-173; #177 #631-636	Tree Planting Crossword Puzzle	
<b>Tree Care</b>	#651- 659	Tree Care Crossword Puzzle	
<b>Lawn Care/ Turf Management</b>	#551-554; #561-566	Turf Management Crossword Puzzle	#571
<b>IPM &amp; Diagnostics</b>	#101, #102, #112-113	#105 IPM Crossword Puzzle	#103
<b>Weed Management</b>	#351, #352, #353		#356
<b>Entomology</b>	#311-315	#318	
<b>Plant Pathology</b>	#331	#332	
<b>Colorado Gardening Challenges</b>	Supplemental readings posted online.		

Topic	GardenNotes Readings – not required, for reference	Homework Optional	Worksheets Optional, in-class
Vegetables	#711-724; #731		
Small Fruits	#761-764		
Irrigation	#261-268		
Pruning	#611-617	#618	
Fruit Trees	#771		

# 2024/25 Green School Full Course Schedule

<b>Week</b>	<b>Course / Format</b>	<b>Live Review</b> Pick One   Hosted on Zoom
November 4-8	<b>Training Introduction Course</b> Online Class	<b>Q&amp;A:</b> Nov. 6 at 6-7:30PM Nov. 7 at 9-10:30AM
November 11-15	<b>Soils, Fertilizers &amp; Amendments</b> Online Class	<b>Q&amp;A:</b> Nov. 13 at 6-7:30PM Nov. 14 at 9-10:30AM
November 18-22	<b>Botany: How Plants Grow</b> Online Class	<b>Q&amp;A:</b> Nov. 20 at 6-7:30PM Nov. 21 at 9-10:30AM
<b>November 25-29</b>	<b>Catch-up / Off week</b> Complete past work or work ahead	<i>No Live Review Class</i>
December 2-6	<b>Tree Identification &amp; Planting</b> Online Class	<b>Q&amp;A:</b> Dec. 4 at 6-7:30PM Dec. 5 at 9-10:30AM
December 9-13	<b>Tree Care</b> Online Class	<b>Q&amp;A:</b> Dec. 11 at 6-7:30PM Dec. 12 at 9-10:30AM
December 16-20	<b>Lawn Care / Turfgrass Management</b> Online Class	<b>Q&amp;A:</b> Dec. 18 at 6-7:30PM Dec. 19 at 9-10:30AM
<b>December 23 – January 3, 2025</b>	<b>Catch-up / Off weeks</b> Complete past work or work ahead	<i>No Live Review Class</i>
January 6-10	<b>IPM &amp; Diagnostics</b> Online Class	<b>Q&amp;A:</b> Jan. 8 at 6-7:30PM Jan. 9 at 9-10:30AM

<b>Week</b>	<b>Course / Format</b>	<b>Live Review</b> Pick One   Hosted on Zoom
January 13-17	<b>Weed Management</b> Online Class	<b>Q&amp;A:</b> Jan. 15 at 6-7:30PM Jan. 16 at 9-10:30AM
January 20-24	<b>Entomology Part I</b> Online Class + Optional Recorded Lectures	<b>Q&amp;A:</b> Jan. 22 at 6-7:30PM Jan. 23 at 9-10:30AM
<b>January 27-31</b>	<b>Catch-up / Off week</b> Complete past work or work ahead	<i>No Live Review Class</i>
February 3-7	<b>Entomology Part II</b> Online Class + Optional Recorded Lectures	<b>Q&amp;A:</b> Feb. 5 at 6-7:30PM Feb. 6 at 9-10:30AM
February 10-14	<b>Plant Pathology</b> Online Class	<b>Q&amp;A:</b> Feb. 12 at 6-7:30PM Feb. 13 at 9-10:30AM
February 17-21	<b>Colorado Gardening Challenges</b> Online Class	<b>Q&amp;A:</b> Feb. 19 at 6-7:30PM Feb. 20 at 9-10:30AM
February 24-28	<b>Vegetables</b> Online Class	<b>Q&amp;A:</b> Feb. 26 at 6-7:30PM Feb. 27 at 9-10:30AM
<b>March 3-7</b>	<b>Catch-up / Off week</b> Complete past work or work ahead	<i>No Live Review Class</i>
March 10-21	<b>Additional Modules</b> [Optional] Small Fruits, Irrigation, Pruning, Fruit Trees	<b>Q&amp;A by Topic:</b> Wednesdays 6-7:30PM Thursdays 9-10:30AM Small Fruits: 3/12 Irrigation: 3/13 Pruning: 3/19 Fruit Trees: 3/20
<b>Due By March 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Final Exam</b> Online; opens March 1 <sup>st</sup> 2025 50 questions   70% to pass Open-book, open-note, research encouraged. Does not include material from optional courses.	<b>NOTES</b> Paper certificates are mailed to those who complete course requirements by the deadline. Participants have access to all courses and recordings for <b>one</b> full year.