



Home Horticulture Evening Lecture Series – Syllabus

The Home Horticulture Lecture Series covers the same topics Certified Massachusetts Master Gardeners study as part of their training...but in a streamlined format tailored to gardeners with busy lifestyles.

KEY FUNDAMENTALS

BOTANY

This class will help you understand plant structure and how they function in their environment, their needs for light, nutrients and water, how they reproduce, how pesticides and diseases impact the plant and why you should use particular practices for planting, pruning, harvesting, etc.

SOIL

There is no such thing as a great garden without great soil. So what is soil? And how do you get great soil? We'll look at soil and talk about compost. And we'll tell you how to make your soil great and keep it that way. Bring in a soil sample from your garden, and trained Master Gardeners will test its pH for free.

NOMENCLATURE

Many gardeners, even experienced ones, feel confused when botanical names are being bandied about. Botanical names serve several important purposes, and understanding them can tell you a lot about the plant you are working with. In this class we will show you how to understand a plant's botanical name, and discuss strategies for learning them over time. We'll explore botanical nomenclature (the way plant names are organized) in a manner that is accessible and easy to understand, so that you can feel confident the next time you find yourself face to face with a two part Latinate name!

PRACTICAL HOW-TO'S

DISEASES AND PESTS

This class will cover common plant diseases and take a look at common pests — both insect and animal — and how to treat them.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN BASICS

Do you have the feeling that you should be planning your property, rather than just mowing it or buying whatever is in bloom? Now is the time to get started for this growing year! Enjoy some pretty pictures and practical advice, whether you have a patio or an estate.

LAWN CARE & ALTERNATIVES

This class will look at how you can create a healthy lawn by eliminating the “steps” and working on the fundamentals. We'll also examine other options for use of your space beyond turf.

PERENNIALS

This class will cover perennial plant selection, defining cultural needs and site evaluations. It will look at zone hardiness and micro climates and how they affect perennials. The class will also cover perennial care: watering, fertilizing, deadheading, and dividing. We will also discuss gardening with natives as well as pollinator, butterfly and wildlife gardens.



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VEGETABLE CULTURE

You don't need a big yard with long straight rows to grow vegetables! Vegetable gardening can be part of almost any home garden. We'll look at different types and methods of vegetable culture and discuss layout, variety choices, and growing techniques.

WEED ECOLOGY

This class will discuss the different types of common weeds and how their growth habits (and thus treatment approaches) differ. It will explain how to identify the weeds in your yard so you can create a successful management approach. And, best of all, it will show you the things you can do to help prevent weeds before they start or at least minimize any infestation.

WOODY PLANTS

We'll start by discussing the different types of woody plants, their architecture and growth habits, and how to plant them properly. We will also show you all the reasons you might want to prune your woody plants and how (and when) to prune them properly. We will also go over techniques and tools to make you a successful caretaker of your woody plants.

All lectures include detailed handouts and plenty of time for Q&A.

For more information, email us at HomeHort@MassMasterGardeners.org

PLEASE NOTE: The Home Horticulture Lecture Series does not lead to Master Gardener certification.

Visit us online at www.massmastergardeners.org — To follow us on Facebook, search for Massachusetts Master Gardeners