



2019 Massachusetts Gardening Symposium

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Location & Timing

Q: *What is the date?*

A: Saturday, September 28th

Q: *Where is the Symposium being held?*

A: We will be at Westford Academy, 30 Patten Road, Westford, MA 01886.

Q: *Can you provide driving directions?*

A: Definitely. This should help:

From the south

Take I-93 N. Take Exit 37-B to I-95 S/MA 128 S (toward Waltham). Take Exit 32B-A to US-3N (Middlesex Tpk./Burlington/Nashua). Take Exit 30C to I-495 S (toward Marlboro). Take Exit 32 (Westford); at end of ramp, turn right onto Boston Road. From this point follow "Local directions from Boston Road" below.

From the north

Take I-93 S to Everett Tpk. toward Nashua. Everett Tpk. becomes US-3 S. Take Exit 30B to I-495 S (toward Marlboro). Take Exit 32 (Westford); at end of ramp, turn right onto Boston Road. From this point follow "Local directions from Boston Road" below.

From the west

Take Rt. 2 E to I-495 N. Take Exit 32 (Westford); at end of ramp, turn left onto Boston Road. From this point follow "Local directions from Boston Road" below. From the Worcester area Take I-290 E toward Marlboro. Take Exit 26B to I-495 N (toward Lowell). Take Exit 32 (Westford); at end of ramp, turn left onto Boston Road. From this point follow "Local directions from Boston Road" below.

Local directions from Boston Road

Go 1.25 miles on Boston Road. Turn left onto Main Street; Main becomes Forge Village Road. Turn left on Patten Road or continue and turn left on Cold Spring Road. At the stop sign (Patten Road) enter the Westford Academy parking lot. Westford Academy is on the left.

Q: *Where should I park?*

A: There is ample free parking adjacent to the building. For the convenience of attendees with special needs, there are handicapped-accessible parking spaces near the main entrance. Look for our volunteers in the parking lot – they will be happy to direct you.



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Q: *What are the hours?*

A: Check-In begins at 8:00 AM. Everyone is asked to be seated by 9:00 AM. The Symposium is expected to end by 3:45 PM.

Q: *What time are the lectures?*

A: The lecture schedule is as follows. There will be ample time between lectures for breaks so you can visit the Garden Marketplace, checkout our Silent Auction Table, and chat with old and new friends. Lunch will be available starting at 11:45 AM.

9:15-10:15 – **Jacqueline van der Kloet**, “Magical Mixes”

10:45-11:45 – **Paul Zammit**, “Container Gardening: Four Seasons of Interest”

12:45-1:45 – **Matt Mattus**, “Mastering the Art of Vegetable Gardening”

2:15-3:30 – **Fergus Garrett**, “Designing with Plants the Great Dixter Way”

Q: *I need to arrive late. Is that okay?*

A: Of course. The Check-In table will be staffed until 10 AM. After that, name tags and Attendee Packets will be on the table – you can help yourself.

Q: *I need to leave early. Is that possible?*

A: Absolutely. Afternoon lectures are scheduled for 12:45-1:45 and 2:15-3:30. You must be present to win Silent Auction items and door prizes. Winning Auction bids will be announced at 1:45; door prize winners will be announced at 12:30 and 3:30. On your way out we ask that you drop off your name tag holder and Evaluation Form on one of the lobby tables or hand it to one of our volunteers.

Tickets

Q: *Is there still time to purchase tickets?*

A: Sorry. Due to strong demand, we were sold out in early August.

Q: *I can't find my ticket. What should I do?*

A: You don't need a ticket. If you are receiving this email, you are on our list of registrants. We will have your name at the Check-In Table – no ticket needed.

Q: *I don't recall if I registered. How do I find out?*

A: This email is being sent only to registrants. Rest assured: you're on our list!

Q: *I will not be able to attend. Can I get a refund?*

A: The cutoff date to request a refund is September 21. Email us for instructions, SympInfo@MassMasterGardeners.org.

Q: *I cannot attend and am giving my ticket to a friend. Is that okay?*

A: Your friend should ask for his/her Attendee Packet at the Check-In Table using your name. We can then make them a new name tag.



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Refreshments/Food

Q: *Will food be available or should I bring my own?*

A: We will provide light morning refreshments (including coffee) as well as a bag lunch that includes a sandwich or wrap, pickle, dessert and beverage.

Q: *I don't remember what I selected for lunch.*

A: No worries. A lunch voucher listing your sandwich selection will be included in your badge holder, which you can pick up at the Check-In Table. If your medical dietary restrictions have changed since you registered, email SympInfo@MassMasterGardeners.org.

Miscellaneous

Q: *Do I need to bring cash?*

A: Good question. Some of the vendors in our Garden Marketplace do not have the ability to accept credit or debit cards. You are encouraged to bring a bit of cash or your checkbook. The Silent Auction will accept cash, checks or credit cards.

Q: *Will there be a plant-sitting area?*

A: For everyone's safety and security, vendors cannot store purchases for you. Please plan to put all purchases in your car during one of the breaks. Plants cannot be brought into the auditorium. The MMGA cannot be responsible for purchases or personal belongings left in public areas.

Still have questions?

Email us at SympInfo@MassMasterGardeners.org