

# Training Schedule 2026 ~ Oswego County Master Gardener Volunteer Program

Wednesday, January 28 – **IN PERSON**

**Required Class: 5:30 pm to 7:30pm**

- Student Orientation
- Introduction to CCE Oswego, MGV Program
- Overview of Cornell's Distance Learning Center through Moodle

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## February

Wednesday – February 4

*Reading week –*

- *NOTE: from the time you log in to the GBL, you from February 4 to February 11 to complete the Introduction and Module 1. We suggest you stay on top of your reading, don't fall behind or wait until the last minute.*

Introduction

- Adult Learning and Peer Learning Networks
- Community Engagement and “Action Projects”

Module 1: The Fundamentals

- Plant Biology for Gardeners
- Right Plant Right Place
- Beneficial Insects
- Plant Pathology

Wednesday – February 11 – **VIRTUAL**

**Required Class 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm - Zoom**

- Guest Speaker – Pat Main, CCE Oswego Master Gardener, will talk about gardening in small spaces (confirmed 1/6/2026)
- Be prepared for **knowledge check for Introduction and Module 1**

Wednesday – February 18

*Reading Week -*

- *NOTE: You have from February 18 to February 28 to complete Module 2.*

Module 2L Food Gardening

- Vegetable Gardening Part One
- Vegetable Gardening Part Two
- Fruit Gardening
- Nutrition, Food Safety and Food Security (Post-Harvest)

Saturday, February 28 - **IN PERSON**

**Required Class 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

- Guest speaker - Steve Reiner, Professor of School of Integrative Plant Science Horticulture at Cornell University will talk about vegetable gardening (confirmed 1/6/2026)
- Be prepared for **knowledge checks for module 2**

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## March

Wednesday – March 4

*Reading Week –*

- *NOTE: You have from March 4 to March 11 to complete Module 3*

### Module 3: Ornamental Plants and Ecosystems Services

- Woody Plants
- Herbaceous Plants
- Lawn Care and Ecosystem Services

### Wednesday – March 11 – VIRTUAL

#### Required Class 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm – Zoom

- Guest Speaker – Katie Stout, CCE Oswego Master Gardener, will talk about site assessments and landscape design (confirmed 1/7/26)
- Be prepared for **knowledge check for Module 3**

### Wednesday – March 18

#### *Reading Week –*

- *NOTE: You have from March 18 to March 28 to complete Module 4. This module has a lot of reading so our recommendation would be to get started as early.*

### Module 4: Problem Solving

- Problem Solving: Integrated Pest Management
- Pesticide Use and Reading Labels
- Troubleshooting Food Crops & Ornamental Plants
- Troubleshooting Pests in the Home & Garden

### Saturday, March 28 - IN PERSON

#### Required Class 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

- Guest Speaker – Joe Chaivoletti & Dylan Cox, Oswego County Soil & Water District, will provide an overview of invasives (confirmed 1/9/26)
- Carolyn Petrocci, CCE Master Gardener Volunteer, will talk about spongy moths (confirmed 1/9/26)
- Be prepared for **knowledge check for Module 4**

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## **April**

### Wednesday – April 1

- Spring Break

### Wednesday – April 8

#### *Reading Week -*

- *NOTE: You have from April 8 to April 15 to complete Module 5*

### Module 5: Management Strategies

- Organic Waste Management: Composting
- Soil Amendments and Fertilizers
- Invasive Species for Gardeners
- Gardening in a Warming World

### Wednesday – April 15 – VIRTUAL

#### Required Class 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm – zoom

- Guest Speaker - Professor Mike P. Hoffmann, Professor Emeritus College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University (confirmed 1/6/2026)

- Author of “Our Changing Menu: Climate Change and the Foods We Love and Need.”  
<https://www.ourchangingmenu.com/>
- Be prepared for **knowledge check for Module 4**

Saturday - April 25 - **IN PERSON**

**Required Class 9:00 am to 12:30 pm**

- Guest speaker – Jean Bonhotal, Senior Extension Associate, School of Integrative Plant Science Soil and Crop Sciences, will talk about composting and waste management (confirmed 1/7/26)
- Tour Bristol Hill Transfer Station, Fulton, NY. Come prepared to be outside.
- Be prepared for **knowledge check for Module 5**

Wednesday - April 29

*Reading Week -*

- *NOTE: You have from April 29 to May 6 to complete Module 6*

Module 6: Starting and Sustaining Learning Gardens

- Group Gardens and NYS Seed to Supper Network
- Youth Development and School Gardens

**May**

Wednesday – May 6 – **VIRTUAL**

**Required Class 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm – zoom**

- Guest Speaker – Donna Cooke, Instructor for Cornell School of Integrative Plant Science for Horticulture Distance Learning will talk about youth development and school programming (confirmed 1/6/2026)
- Be prepared for the **knowledge check for Module 6**

Wednesday – May 13

*Reading Week -*

- *NOTE: You have from May 13 to May 23 to review Module 7*

Module 7: Action Projects and Orientation to Local Program areas

- Action Project Presentations
- Orientation to Local Program Areas

Saturday, May 23 - **IN PERSON**

**Required Class 9:00 am to 12:30 pm**

- Guest speaker – Suzzane Fox, CCE Oswego Master Gardener Volunteer, will talk about soil and how to improve it (confirmed 1/8/26)
- Be prepared to discuss the final projects

Wednesday – May 22

- Deadline for final project proposal

**June**

Wednesday – June 3 – **VIRTUAL**

**Required Class: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm - zoom**

- Guest Speaker - Janet Allen from Habitat Gardening in Central New York will talk about the importance of insects and pollinators (confirmed 1/8/26)
  - Website: <https://hgcn.wildones.org/>
- **Q&A session about final projects**

Saturday - June 13 - IN PERSON

Required Class 8:30am – 1:00pm

- **Final presentations** (no more than 10-15 minutes)
  - Afterwards, **graduation certificates** and **name badges**
  - We will have a **brief meeting** to talk about the “next steps” for the volunteer program.
  - *Location: Amboy 4-H Environmental Education Center, 748 State Route 183, between County Routes 69 and 13 near Williamstown. (Owned and operated by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oswego County 4-H Program*
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