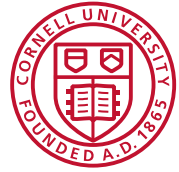


Cornell Cooperative Extension Cornell Garden-Based Learning



CCE Franklin County Master Gardener Volunteer Training Hybrid Course Syllabus Fall 2026-Winter 2027

Facilitators: Laura Trudell

Virtual Office Hours: Please check Moodle for hours each week or reach out via email

Email: ljt92@cornell.edu

Welcome!

Welcome to the CCE Franklin County Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) hybrid training program. We are pleased that you will further develop your talents and enthusiasm for gardening as you help CCE Franklin provide opportunities that put knowledge to work in our communities, in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability and social well-being.

About CCE Franklin's MGV Program **It's brand new!**

The Cornell Master Gardener Volunteer training prepares Master Gardener Volunteers to provide educational outreach and gardening activities that draw on the horticultural research and experience of Cornell University. Master Gardener Volunteers receive research-based instruction and are kept current through advanced training and experience in environmental horticulture. In return for their training, Master Gardener Trainees agree to share their knowledge through approved CCE Franklin volunteer service in the community.

Part of your training will include an CCE Franklin's programs. You can choose your volunteer hours as you wish, in any of the areas listed below that fit your needs and interests. Each year you will also be required to continue your ongoing education through approved professional development offerings. Master Gardener Volunteer service hours consist of:

- Providing educational outreach to the community on how to grow and care for trees, flowers, shrubs, fruits, vegetables and lawns.
- Assisting with workshops, exhibits, plant sales and other event functions, teaching workshops or assisting with local community gardens
- Educating the public at public libraries, senior centers, garden clubs, schools, and other community groups.
- Volunteering at Fairs and Farmers Markets.
- Vegetable Variety trials
- Seed to Supper
- Much, much more, as the program grows!

What to Expect

This year's course will begin at the end of September/beginning of October 2026 and end at the end of February 2027. We will take multiple weeks of time off during the holidays. Over this period, you will learn through online, in-person, and virtual experiences. Anyone enrolled in this course is expected to participate in all learning activities and submit

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.

assignments on a timely basis. Plan to dedicate about 3-5 or more hours per week for the online preparation as mentioned above, including discussion forums and tasks as assigned. Keeping yourself well organized and current with assignments will help you get the most out of this course. You will get from the course what you put into it!

Online Learning

Each week, students will learn at their own pace, asynchronously, in the Moodle Learning Management System. It is expected that you will complete assigned pre-work prior to each weekly Wednesday Zoom session, as there is content that will build upon this foundation.

Each week we will meet for a 2hour zoom on Wednesdays, 5-7pm. These sessions are mandatory and involve interactive activities. There will be required pre-work for these zoom sessions indicated in the Moodle course. Additional weekly activities and discussion forum participation will be due online by each Saturday evening, midnight.

In-person Sessions

We will meet in-person as a whole group, one Saturday each month. These in-person meetings will be 9am-2pm at the Paul Smith's VIC in Paul Smiths. Attendance for in-person sessions is required.

Prepare the week before through online readings, videos, and lectures by Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension specialists, learning activities, knowledge self-checks and a deeper exploration of web resources. Coming to each session prepared is essential in helping you better understand each topic and gives you an opportunity to ask questions and increase your knowledge.

Virtual Office Hours

There will be virtual Office Hours each week, which is an opportunity to ask questions and engage with fellow classmates and course facilitator(s) about the current content and issues you are studying. Please check the "News & Updates" section in Moodle for scheduled office hours.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, participants will:

- Prepare to be peer educators who build relationships with community audiences.
- Integrate local experience and research-based knowledge in better understanding sustainable gardening, management of lawns and landscapes, emphasizing environmental stewardship.
- Recognize the interrelationships between soil, air, water, plants, insects and animals, and apply right plant, right place practices.
- Apply strategies to build and protect healthy soils, recycle nutrients and conserve and protect water resources.
- Distinguish differences growing methods and demonstrate the use of organic approaches in growing fruits and vegetables.
- Interpret plant and insect problems and providing solutions using Integrated Pest Management practices.
- Collaborate with others to advance your understanding of the course materials and how they relate to your gardening practices.

- Understand the science and impact of climate change as it relates to local gardening conditions, determine solutions that address these changing conditions, and have a better understanding of the importance of native plants and impact of invasive species.

Lessons, Learning Activities and Evaluation

- **Learning activities** will consist of online resources, videos, presentations, and web resources that focus on each topic. Weekly tasks will be posted in Moodle and will be made available a week or two before the topic is reviewed in our in-person session. Some topics may include an online discussion forum in Moodle, where you will be prompted to answer questions, and interact with one another to gain a better understanding of the topic.
- **Required Readings:** There is no text to purchase. Required readings are online in the Moodle course, printed materials distributed in class, and other references.
- **Optional Reading & Exploration:** A list of optional resources to explore will enrich each topic within each module.
- **Evaluation:** Quizzes, Knowledge Self-Checks, Reflective Journals, and other evaluative tools will assess your understanding of each topic. Assessments vary by topic and will be offered both online in Moodle and during in-class sessions.
- **Action Project:** The action project is an opportunity to cultivate your peer educator skills, by developing an educational activity of your choice. Explore a gardening topic that is important to you, or one you wish to learn more about. Your project will be a tangible product with clearly defined and communicated benchmarks that you will describe, and the reach. Depending on your skills and interests. You may wish to create a presentation, garden renovation, a hands-on activity, an article, a factsheet, or another educational product.
- **Journal Entries:** Within each module of topics, you will be asked to write a journal entry. The purpose of the journals is a time to reflect on what you have learned so far, and how this knowledge will help you become a better gardener, CCE Volunteer, and environmentally sound citizen. This is a self-reflective learning activity, not a sounding board! Suggested writing prompts will be posted in Moodle; however, you are free to explore your own topics if they relate to the course. Most importantly, how you will use this information in your future as a MGJV and successful home gardener. Journal entries are written in a Word Doc and uploaded into Moodle.
- **Grading:** While there are no grades assigned for this course, all assignments are designed to help keep you on track and evaluate your understanding of the content. Assignments and projects are expected to be completed on or before their due dates and will be evaluated on an Outstanding/Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis for you to track your progress.
 - **Outstanding:** Submitted on or before the due date, used the course materials to answer all of the questions and/or complete all assigned tasks.
 - **Satisfactory:** Submitted after the due date, used the course materials to answer all of the questions and/or complete all assigned tasks
 - **Unsatisfactory:** Did not submit the assignment by the due date and/or did not answer any or all questions and/or did not completed any or all assigned tasks (please let us know if you are simply auditing the course)

Certificate of Completion: To receive the Certificate of Completion, one must complete the Action Project and pass all required assignments with grades of “Outstanding” or “Satisfactory”.

Absence Policy

In the event that you have to miss an in-person class or a zoom session, you must notify Laura ASAP and you will have to do a make-up session with Laura within a week of absence. Only 2 approved absences are allowed.

Snow Dates & Emergency Closing Policy

In the event of an emergency or dangerous travelling weather, the session will be **fully remote instead of cancelled**. A notice will be posted in Moodle in the News & Updates Section (at the top of the homepage of the course), which automatically sends notification to your email. Please check with Moodle if you are unsure about the status of an in-person class. A system of phone call/text message notifications will be set up as well.

CCE Franklin - MGV Core Training Modules and Sessions

Modules:

Introduction

- Section 0.1 Adult Learning and Peer Learning Networks

- Section 0.2 Community Engagement and Action Projects

Module 1: The Fundamentals

- Section 1.1 Plant Biology for Gardeners

- Section 1.2 Right Plant, Right Place

- Section 1.3 Beneficial Insects

- Section 1.4 Basic Plant Pathology

Module 2: Food Gardening

- Section 2.1a Vegetable Gardening (Part 1 of 2)

- Section 2.1b Vegetable Gardening (Part 2 of 2)

- Section 2.2 Fruit Gardening

- Section 2.3 Nutrition, Food Safety and Food Security (Post-Harvest)

Module 3: Ornamental Plants and Ecosystems Services

- Section 3.1 Woody Plants

- Section 3.2 Herbaceous Plants Folder

- Section 3.3 Lawn Care and Ecosystems Services Folder

Module 4: Problem Solving

- Section 4.1a Pest Management Strategies and IPM (Part 1 of 2)

- Section 4.1b Pesticide Use and Reading Labels (Part 2 of 2)

- Section 4.2a Pests of Food Crops and Ornamental Plants (Part 1 of 2)

- Section 4.2b Pests in the Home and Garden (Part 2 of 2)

Module 5: Management Strategies

- Section 5.1 Organic Waste Management (Composting)

- Section 5.2 Soil Amendments and Fertilizers

- Section 5.3 Invasive Species for Gardeners

- Section 5.4 Gardening in a Warming World

Module 6: Starting and Sustaining Learning Gardens

Section 6.1 Group Gardens and NYS Seed to Supper Network
Section 6.2 Youth Development and School Gardens
Module 7: Action Project Presentations & Orientation to Local Program Areas
Section 7.1 Action Project Presentations
Section 7.2 Orientation to Local Program Areas

Session Schedule:

September 26th Saturday – Course Content Opens

Week 1

October 1st Thursday - Optional Pre-Course Zoom for Questions

October 3rd Saturday – 5hr In Person Class Intro to MGVS Training and o.1 & o.2

Week 2

October 7th Wednesday – 2hr Zoom 1.1

October 10th Saturday – Online Content Due 1.2

Week 3

October 14th Wednesday – 2hr Zoom 1.3

October 17th Saturday – Online Content Due 1.4

Week 4 (Review)

October 21st Wednesday – 2hr Zoom Thursday? 6-7pm

Week 5

October 28th Wednesday – 2hr Zoom 2.1a

October 31st Saturday – Online Content Due 2.1b

Week 6

November 4th Wednesday – 2hr Zoom 2.2

November 7th Saturday – 5hr In Person Class 2.3

Week 7 (Review)

November 11th Wednesday – 2hr Zoom

Week 8

November 18th Wednesday – 2hr Zoom 3.1

November 21st Saturday – Online Content Due 3.2

No Class November 23rd – 29th

Week 9

December 2nd Wednesday – 2hr Zoom 3.3a

December 5th Saturday – 5hr In Person Class 3.3b

Week 10 (Review)

December 9th Wednesday – 2hr Zoom

No Class December 14th - January 2nd

Week 11

January 6th Wednesday – 2hr Zoom 4.1a

January 9th Saturday – 5hr In Person Class 4.1b

Week 12

January 13th Wednesday – 2hr Zoom 4.2a

January 16th Saturday – Online Content Due 4.2b

Week 13 (Review)

January 20th Wednesday – 2hr Zoom

Week 14

January 27th Wednesday – 2hr Zoom 5.1

January 30th Saturday – Online Content Due 5.2

Week 15

February 3rd Wednesday – 2hr Zoom 5.3

February 6th Saturday – 5hr In Person Class 5.4

Week 16

February 10th Wednesday – 2hr Zoom 6.1

February 13th Saturday – Online Content Due 6.2

Week 17 (Review)

February 17th Wednesday – 2hr Zoom

Week 18

February 24th Wednesday – Optional 2hr Zoom 7.1

February 27th Saturday – 5hr In Person Class 7.2