

Only
ORGANIC
Master Gardener
Program in Alberta

Organic Master Gardener Course 2012



Multicultural Heritage Centre 5411-51 Street, Stony Plain, AB ph# (780)963-2777
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Organic Master Gardener

Heritage Agricultural Society Stony Plain Organic Master Gardener



Overview

The Organic Master Gardener program is offered through the Stony Plain Heritage Agricultural Society at the Stony Plain Multicultural Heritage Centre and its Demonstration Farm. The Heritage Agricultural Society has partnered with Gaia College of Victoria B.C. to create the unique curriculum for the program.

Organic agriculture generally means gardening without the use of chemicals, pesticides, and other substances that could contribute to soil, plant, and human health and / or environmental concerns. Organic gardening embraces a more ecological paradigm in all its practices. The Demonstration Farm, operated by the Multicultural Heritage Centre, Stony Plain, is certified 'organic' and offers Organic Master Gardener program students a perfect opportunity to experience and experiment with organic growing methods.

Individuals who are interested in organic gardening and food production are encouraged to participate in the Organic Master Gardener Program. Through education and volunteer hours the participants will acquire an Organic Master Gardener Certificate and become one of thousands across North America who benefit from the sense of accomplishment in learning about organic horticulture and giving back to their community. Master Gardener programs exist in all 50 states and in 5 provinces in Canada. Once in the program, participants will have opportunities to be linked with similar programs elsewhere. Students are encouraged to connect with Alberta's new Master Gardener Association.

Education Component

The Stony Plain Organic Master Gardener Course requires participation in 75 instructional hours, as well as approximately 5 other hours that include orientation, presentations and completion ceremonies. The instructional hours are made up of 25 three- hour sessions offered Wednesday evenings and some Saturdays between February and November of each year.

Students must complete all 75 hours of educational training for certification. Should a student be unable to attend one or more sessions, the certificate of completion will not be awarded until the missed sessions are taken the following year. It is in the best interest of the student to take all sessions as they are offered in each year, as most sessions build one on the other.

Volunteer Component

The volunteer component is important to the Organic Master Gardener Program for two reasons. First, it provides the opportunity for the participant to gain valuable hands-on experience to complement the education component of their learning. Secondly, it provides the Multicultural Heritage Centre and the community at large the opportunity of having knowledgeable leaders in organic horticulture/ agriculture contributing to local projects.

Each participant must complete 50 volunteer hours from the date of registering in the Program, 25 hours of which must be on the Multicultural Heritage Centre/Demonstration Farm site. It should be noted that all 50 volunteer hours can be spent on the Multicultural Heritage Centre / Demonstration Farm site.

Note: There are 3, five hour Saturday sessions called "Work Bees" which can also be used toward the 25 volunteer hours at the Centre

Project Component

Participants must propose a project that they are willing to initiate and establish. This project proposal will be discussed / planned with the Student Project Mentor, and perhaps with the program administrator, for feasibility and appropriateness. This project is a requirement for certification. Students who choose to do a project on the Multicultural Heritage Centre / Demonstration Farm grounds will be able to use the hours spent on that project toward their 50 volunteer hours. Participants must choose a project that will benefit their communities in some way so the project should be in a public location, or at the Multicultural Heritage Centre / Demonstration Farm grounds, in keeping with the premise of Master Gardening across North America. Projects can certainly be done by groups of students.

Graduation/Certification Requirements

The following must be completed for certification:

- Attendance at all 25, three hour courses (proved by the student's signed Passport)
- A Course Evaluation form must be turned in to the program administrator
- A student portfolio of course assignments must be completed
- 50 volunteer hours on a project of choice, at least 25 of which must be completed at the Multicultural Heritage Centre / Demonstration Farm grounds
- An end-of-term presentation (5 to 7 minutes) which must be given at the graduation evening

Evaluation

This program does not include any written examinations. Rather, the evaluation of students will be made on course attendance, participation in the courses, and the other requirements as mentioned above. The instructors will evaluate each student on these merits, and give a pass or fail grade towards the completion of the program.

Fees and Certification

Fee For the Program:

\$1200 to be paid by February 8, 2012

Payable to the:

Heritage Agricultural Society
Box 2188, Stony Plain, Alberta
T7Z 1X7

This fee covers 25 - three hour instructional sessions offered Wednesday evenings and some Saturdays between February and November of each year, plus 50 hours of volunteer time. The fee will cover administration, all Gaia College course instruction, handouts and local resources, a copy of the text-book "Working with Nature - Shifting Paradigms" by Heide Hermany, a copy of "The Soil Biology Primer", one year access to the online text "Organic Land Care - Working with Nature", the Gaia College Organic Master Gardener Course webpages, and first year membership in SOUL (Society for Organic Urban Landcare)

When all courses and volunteer hours are complete, the participant will be awarded the Organic Master Gardener Certificate through Gaia College and the Stony Plain Heritage Agricultural Society.

Payment may be made by cheque or credit card in person at the Multicultural Heritage Centre in Stony Plain, by mail to the Centre, or by Pay Pal on the Centre's website: www.multicentre.org.

(Payment by instalments is possible through an arrangement with the program administrator.)

Course Schedule

NOTE: A small assignment will be handed out at most classes (worksheet, research project, reading assignment, etc.) These assignments are not marked but must be completed and placed in a notebook that will become the student's portfolio, which is handed in as a graduation requirement. Where courses are designated with the word "Gaia", the course work has come directly from Gaia College curriculum.

February 2012

Wednesday, February 8 5 - 6 p.m.

Program Orientation / Information

Assignment: Go On line and log in to the Gaia On Line Campus ... www.gaiacollege.ca

Go to Resources then go to Students

Find 2 recommended readings for "Soil Ecosystems"

6 - 9 p.m.

Course #1: Soil Ecosystem (Gaia)

Instructor: Bernice Kadatz

Wednesday, February 22 6 - 9 p.m.

Course #2: Botany (Gaia)

Instructor: Lorraine Taylor

Wednesday, February 29 6 - 9 p.m.

Course #3: Starting Seeds

Instructor: Lorraine Taylor

March 2012

Wednesday, March 7 6 - 9 p.m.

Course # 4: Composting (Gaia)

Instructor: Bill DeKramer

Saturday, March 17 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Course #5: Soil Testing (Gaia)

Instructor: Bernice Kadatz

Saturday, March 17 1 - 4 p.m.

Course #6: Soil Fertility Management (Gaia)

Instructor: Bernice Kadatz

Talk to your project mentor about your plan for the required project.

Wednesday, March 28 6 - 9 p.m.

Course #7: Growing Vegetables

Instructor: Lorraine Taylor

April 2012

April 1st

Deadline for choosing your project. Have you met the project mentor yet?

Wednesday, April 4 6 – 9 p.m.
Course #8: Teas and Brews (Gaia)
Instructor: Bill DeKramer

Wednesday, April 18 6 – 9 p.m.
Course #9: Introduction to Greenhouse Growing
Instructor: TBA

Wednesday, April 25 6 – 9 p.m.
Course #10: Principles of Landscape Design & Construction (Gaia)
Instructor: Maria Polders

May 2012

Saturday, May 12 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Work Bee at the Multicultural Heritage Centre - Spring Preparation
Instructor: Bill Waitt

Wednesday, May 16 6 – 9 p.m.
Course #11: Garden Bed Installation (Gaia)
Instructor: Maria Polders

Wednesday, May 30 6 – 9 p.m.
Course #12: Herbaceous Plant Propagation
Instructor: Lorraine Taylor

June 2012

Wednesday, June 6 6 – 9 p.m.
Course #13: Lawns (Gaia)
Instructor: Ed DeLong

Wednesday, June 13 6 – 9 p.m.
Course #14: Permaculture (Gaia)
Instructor: Claudia Bolli

Wednesday, June 27 6 – 9 p.m.
Course #15: Native Species I.D.
Instructor: Lorraine Taylor
On site at George Pegg Botanic Garden, Lac Ste Anne County

July 2012

Wednesday, July 11 6 – 9 p.m.

Course #16: Water-Wise Gardening (Gaia)

Instructor: Maria Polders

Saturday, July 21 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Work bee at Multicultural Heritage Centre – Mid-Summer Gardening

Instructor: Bill Waitt

Wednesday, July 25 6 – 9 p.m.

Course #17: Herbaceous Plant I.D.

Instructor: Lorraine Taylor

On site at Forget-Me-Not Greenhouse, Parkland County

August 2012

Wednesday, Aug. 8 6 – 9 p.m.

Course #18: Landscape Health (Gaia)

Instructor: Claudia Bolli

Wednesday, August 15 6 – 9 p.m.

Course #19: Tree and Shrub ID

Instructor: Lorraine Taylor

On site at the University of Alberta

September 2012

Wednesday, September 5 6 – 9 p.m.

Course #20: Plant Problem ID

Instructor: Lorraine Taylor

Wednesday, September 12 6 – 9 p.m.

Course #21: Communications/Project Management

Instructor: Bill Waitt

Saturday, September 22 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Course #22: Pruning Science (Gaia) 9 a.m. – 12 noon

Course #23: Pruning, Practicum (Gaia) 1 – 4 p.m.

Instructor: Ed Delong

October 2012

Wednesday, October 3 6 – 9 p.m.

Course #24: Value Added Products

Instructor: Patti Milligan

Saturday, October 13 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Work bee at Multicultural Heritage Centre – Mid-Summer Gardening

Instructor: Bill Waitt

Wednesday, October 24 6 – 9 p.m.

Course #25: Food Systems - Local Food

Instructor: Perry Phillips / Eva Bogdan

Portfolios are due today, please!

Wednesday, October 31 6 – 9 p.m.

This date will be used as a make-up session if a program has been cancelled during the year. (e.g. For a weather cancellation)

Last day to turn in Portfolios

November 2012

Wednesday, November 14 6 – 9 p.m.

Student Presentations / Portfolio Evaluations returned / Graduation

All Instructors



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