Extension Master Gardener Training Syllabus

Instructor(s): Varies
Contact: wsmarsh2@ncsu.edu
Monday and Wednesday (9/14-10/28)
Lecture/Lab: 9a-12p

Program Purpose

The Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program prepares potential volunteers to assist North Carolina State Extension staff in addressing home horticulture-related topics, including plant selection, establishment and care of lawn, garden and landscapes with an emphasis on integrated approaches to pest management and environmental stewardship. Volunteers assist with Extension's educational programs throughout Brunswick County and extend the reach of horticulture extension staff by providing research-based information to home gardeners. Extension Master Gardeners Volunteers are a part of North Carolina State University, a land grant institution.

Extension Master Gardener Training is an 8-week course designed to enrich your horticultural knowledge so that you can provide non-biased, research-based information to residents of Brunswick County. This course will cover importance of volunteerism, basic botany and entomology, vegetable/fruit production, as well as advanced topics such as irrigation and landscape design. There will be a lab component to **most** classes that will work towards a final class project.

Course Objective:

The EMGV Training Program will equip trainees with the knowledge and skills necessary for addressing home horticulture-related topics. Upon completion of the training program, Master Gardener Volunteers will 1) assist horticulture staff in serving the residents of Brunswick County in the field of consumer horticulture, and 2) effectively deliver research-based information from NC State Extension and Horticulture Staff to the residents of Brunswick County.

Class Schedule:

M, 9/14 Class: Introduction to the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer (EMGV) Program; **Sam Marshall**

Lab: Office Procedures and working with the General Public

W, 9/16 Class: Soils, Plant Nutrients, Fertilizers, and Composting (Chs. 1&2); **Sam Marshall**

Lab: Soil Characteristics; taking a soil test

Th., 9/17 **Field trip to NCDA Soils Lab, Raleigh, NC**

M, 9/21 Class: Reading and Interpreting a Soil Report; Meet your mentor; **Sam Marshall**

Lab: Fertilizer calculation exercise and Field Calibration

W, 9/23 Class: Basic Botany (Chs. 3&4); **Sam Marshall**

Lab: Plant ID in the Botanical Garden*

M, 9/28 Class: Annuals, Perennials, and Bulbs (Ch. 14); Susan Brown

Lab: **TBD**

W, 9/30 Class: Woody Ornamentals and Pruning (Ch. 13); **TBD**

Lab: **TBD**

M, 10/5 Class: Landscape Design (Chs. 10 &12); **Susan Brown**

Lab: Site assessment for class project at cafeteria

W, 10/7 Class: Plant Propagation and Indoor Plants; **George Wong-Chong**

Lab: Propagate plants in botanical garden

M, 10/12 Class: Basic Weed Ecology and Management; **Sam Marshall**

Lab: Weed I.D. and Recommendations

W, 10/14 Class: Basic Entomology and Integrated Pest Management (Chs. 6&9); **Sam Marshall**

Lab: Optional Workday in the Botanical Garden

M, 10/19 Class: Plant Disease and Diagnosis (Chs. 7 &19); **Sam Marshall**

Lab: Plant Disease Diagnosis and Recommendations

W, 10/21 Class: Fruit and Vegetable Gardening; **Michelle Spencer**

Lab: Work on Project

M, 10/26 Class: Introduction to Turfgrass and Irrigation (Chs. 15 & 11); **Tom Woods**

Lab: Review a Soil Report; nutrient requirements of different plants

W, 10/28 Class: Review Master Gardener Office Procedures; **Sam Marshall**

Lab: **Take Home Exam**

M, 11/2 Class: Backyard Ecology; Turn in Exams **Sam Marshall and Sabrina Woofter**

No Lab!

W, 11/4 **Graduation celebration**