

OKANAGAN MASTER GARDENERS

We are a chapter of the Master Gardeners Association of BC, a non-profit society. Our goal is to educate the public about sustainable gardening practices.

Master Gardeners are volunteers who:

- participate in information clinics at local nurseries and garden centres during the growing season,
- make presentations to garden clubs and similar organizations,
- write garden advice columns for newspapers and newsletters,
- are involved in horticultural therapy at extended care facilities and hospices,
- participate in and sometimes lead community horticultural projects,
- participate at garden tours, garden judging and other events.

Master Gardeners deal with all aspects of gardening including basic plant physiology, soil improvement, pest management, and information on local growing environments. We aim to provide the most current information on local pests and diseases, and the use of environmentally friendly solutions to plant problems.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Interested gardeners are required to attend one information session.

Sessions will be held in West Kelowna on Saturdays April 23, May 7, May 21 and June 11.

A qualifying quiz based on basic gardening knowledge will be administered at each information session.

The Okanagan Master Gardeners observe current COVID protocols.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions>



For more course information, or to sign up for an information session, please contact
okanaganmastergardenerscourse@gmail.com



OKANAGAN MASTER GARDENERS

BASIC TRAINING COURSE
2022

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
September 10 to December 10
Kelowna

Basic Training topics include:

- ❖ Botany
- ❖ Plant Nomenclature and Identification
- ❖ Soil and Amendments
- ❖ Plant Nutrition and Fertilizers
- ❖ Vegetable Gardening
- ❖ Tree Fruits
- ❖ Berries and Grapes
- ❖ Vegetables
- ❖ Lawn Care
- ❖ Herbaceous and Woody Landscape Plants
- ❖ Basic Entomology
- ❖ Insect and Vertebrate Pest Management
- ❖ Plant Pathology
- ❖ Plant Problem Diagnosis
- ❖ Plant Health Care and IPM
- ❖ Pruning Principles
- ❖ Plant Propagation
- ❖ Composting
- ❖ Fire-Resistant Landscaping
- ❖ Waterwise Landscaping

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BECOME A MASTER GARDENER?

PREREQUISITES

- Keen, experienced gardener, prepared to share knowledge and enthusiasm with the gardening public.
- Attend an information session and complete a qualifying quiz on basic gardening knowledge.
- Willing and available to volunteer for 3 - 6 hour periods, typically Saturday or Sunday, for a total of 65 volunteer hours with an experienced Master Gardener over a two-year period (usually April through September) after completing the course.

BASIC TRAINING

- Attendance and participation for 12 Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., successful completion of all assignments, followed by successful completion of final exam (minimum 80%).
- Instruction will include both in person and online sessions.
- Required readings and research assignments may require additional 10 hours a week.

MASTER GARDENER CERTIFICATION

- Successful completion of the Basic Training Program.
- Completion of 65 volunteer hours and 5 continuing education hours over the following 2 years.
- Once qualified, Master Gardeners must complete 15 volunteer hours and 5 continuing education hours each year to maintain their Master Gardener status.



COST

\$600 includes tuition, all textbooks and reference materials for the Basic Training Program. Notable guest speakers and presentations weekly. Master Gardener mentor support and coaching.

\$100 (non-refundable) deposit is due with registration. Balance of tuition is due by July 1, 2022.

No refunds once the student has started the course.

For more information about the BC Master Gardeners, please visit our website:

www.mgabc.org