



VANCOUVER ISLAND
UNIVERSITY

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Centre for
Continuing Studies

Program Guide 2010-2012

Master Gardener

Part-time Non-credit Certificate Program

*A collaboration between Vancouver Island University and
Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association.*

Program Overview

The Master Gardener Certificate Program is a program to train volunteers. It combines classroom instruction, followed by 70 volunteer hours in which students have the opportunity to share their knowledge and passion about gardening with the community.

The program is intended for the experienced home gardener, and provides an opportunity to develop gardening knowledge and skills, and to share that expertise with the community. The aims of the Master Gardener Program are:

- The provision of the most current and reliable environmentally responsible home gardening information available;
- The provision of the training necessary to prepare graduates to share that information with the gardening public.

Program Goals and Objectives

This program provides an opportunity to:

- Meet other gardeners in an atmosphere of sharing and exploration;
- Fill gaps in your gardening knowledge;
- Provide satisfying solutions to future gardening problems;
- Learn where to find the answers to new challenges;
- Give back to your community some of the joy that gardening has afforded you over the years.



The program is based on a multifaceted approach to gardening problems and emphasizes the promotion of plant health, the use of an environmentally responsible approach, and the employment of integrated pest management. This reflects an underlying philosophy that we are stewards, not owners, of the land, and that we can only work with nature, not control it.

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Program Format

The Master Gardener Program is a non-credit certificate program consisting of 78 hours of training, followed by 70 hours of volunteer service. The classroom training component is typically delivered in a Saturday workshop format, and combines home study, classroom instruction, and assignments. The volunteer service hours are individually scheduled, and must be completed within a two year period.

Program Outline

Students are expected to complete both components.

Classroom Component:

Master Gardener Program: Theory (AMMG 020)

78 hours

Designed for experienced home gardeners, this course provides an overview of gardening basics. Topics include: soils; composting; plant identification; shrubs, trees, perennials and annuals; berries; vegetables; plant propagation; pruning; weeds, pests, and their controls. The program emphasizes environmentally responsible gardening practices.

The course modules are taught by experts in each topic. Vancouver Island Master Gardeners are available as mentors.

Volunteer Service Component:

Master Gardener In Training (AMMG 030)

70 hours

Students participate in various clinics at nurseries, compost centres, garden tours, garden centres, schools, and community garden events. Students must complete 70 hours of volunteer service.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of AMMG 020.

Note: On completion of the program, to remain a Master Gardener, membership in the local Master Gardeners Association and a minimum volunteer commitment of 20 hours per year is required.

Admission Requirements

The requirements for entry into the program are as follows:

- Experienced home gardener, prepared to share knowledge and enthusiasm with the gardening public.
- Attend a mandatory Information Session.
- Successfully complete a qualifying quiz on basic gardening knowledge. (This is typically completed at the Information Session.)
- Complete an interview.
- Be available on a number of weekends to complete volunteer hours over a two year period, typically between April and September.

How to Apply

- After completion of the quiz, interview and personal information forms, qualifying students will be invited to apply to the program.
- Submit the Vancouver Island University Application for Admission form. (Note: There is a \$35 application fee for first time applicants to Vancouver Island University.)

Start Date

The program typically starts in the Fall of every other year, and is offered at the Nanaimo, Parksville, or Cowichan campuses. Check the website and current Program Information Sheet for details.

Fees

Tuition for the program is \$799. Full tuition must be paid at the time of registration.

Other costs: Students are required to pay a Student Society Fee of \$9.73 and a Student Activity Fee of \$8.90. Students will also be required to purchase textbooks.

Note: Fees are subject to change.

To Earn The Certificate

To earn the Master Gardener Certificate, the student must:

- Successfully complete Master Gardener Program: Theory (AMMG 020). This requires the student to:
 - Attend a minimum of 72 hours (of the total of 78 hours) of instruction;
 - Satisfactorily complete all assignments;
 - Attain a minimum mark of 80% on the final exam.
- Successfully complete 70 hours of Master Gardener Volunteer Service (AMMG 030) over a two-year period. The volunteer service component is coordinated by the Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association.
- Successfully complete a plant identification project within the two year period.

For More Information

You must attend the mandatory Information Session for this program. Check the website, or contact the Centre for Continuing Education for dates.

For more information, please refer to the Information Sheet and to our website at www.viu.ca/ccs/certificates, or contact the Centre for Continuing Studies toll-free at 1-866-734-6252.

The information contained in this guide is accurate at the time of printing. Vancouver Island University reserves the right to make such changes as necessary, including cancellation and adjustment of courses and changes in fees.

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About the Centre for Continuing Studies

The Centre for Continuing Studies at Vancouver Island University serves the education and training needs of thousands of lifelong learners in our region each year. The Centre seeks to expand learning opportunities for adults and to provide a welcome point of contact for business, industry, and individuals interested in accessing extensive educational resources. The Centre links Vancouver Island University with community groups to develop education and training programs for people of all ages for professional, occupational and personal skill development.

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Centre for Continuing Studies

About Vancouver Island University

Vancouver Island University is a comprehensive university for the central Vancouver Island region. The main campus is located in Nanaimo; regional campuses in Cowichan, Powell River and the Parksville/Qualicum area. More than 10,500 full-time and part-time students are enrolled in academic, career, technology, applied, and upgrading programs. In addition, 10,500 part-time learners are enrolled in continuing education programs.



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