

Master Gardener Training @ HCP

Program Information & Registration

VICTORIA MG TRAINING



Victoria Master Gardener Association

We Grow Gardeners

victoriamastergardeners.org

Welcome and
Introductions to the
Master Gardener
Class of 2026



Master Gardeners – Background

- The Master Gardener program is an international volunteer program that trains people in gardening and horticulture
- Originating in Washington state in 1972, there are now chapters around the world
- Victoria Master Gardeners was formed 25 years ago, in 2000
- HCP and VMGA have been partners in delivering the MG course for many years

VMGA Mission and Goals – Strategic Plan

Our Mission

- To promote gardening and encourage sustainable horticultural practices*
- To educate members
- To share members' knowledge, experience, and love of gardening with the public

*VMGA defines “Sustainable Horticulture” as gardening practices that do not diminish natural systems or resources, and that maintain and enhance the natural environment for future generations.

The path to becoming a Master Gardener

- Successfully complete the Master Gardener course with HCP
- Join VMGA as an Intern

What Next?

During your program, we will provide more information on VGMA and the path to becoming a Master Gardener.

For more information about Master Gardeners of BC - <https://www.mgabc.org/>

Who is the program for?

Ideal candidates could be....

- Home gardeners with some experience who are eager to learn.
- Newcomers to the region who want to know what to grow here.
- Those with a desire to share up-to-date, science-based gardening knowledge with their community.
- Gardeners with 40+ years of “trial and error” expertise.

Who is it NOT for?

- Those looking for career training in horticulture
- Anyone with full focus on food production - mainly ornamental/home gardens

Topics & Instructors

Approx. 80 hours of instruction

- Botany & soils with Laura Biggs
- Plant ID with Jane Tice
- Food Production & Pest/Disease Management with Linda Gilkeson (zoom only)
- Elements of Landscape Design with Bethany Couture
- Pruning with Jane Tice
- Propagation with Linda Petite
- Specialty topics (ie. Native Plants, invasive, Roses, Field Trips)

Horticulture Centre of the Pacific (HCP)

505 Quayle Road, Saanich
The Classroom & Gardens

Your registration includes
2026 membership to the gardens.

Schedule

Blended delivery (in-person and via Zoom)

Normally 2x per week, late January to mid-May

- SUNDAYS, 9:00 am - Noon, in person at the HCP
- THURSDAYS, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm, via ZOOM
- Some TUESDAYS, recordings available.

Expectations

Homework, attendance & final exam (80%)

- Weekly readings from textbooks (one digital, one book)
- Approximately 15 hours homework - assignments to be submitted
- 80% attendance required
- Most Zoom classes are recorded & available for 2 weeks
- Final Exam: 3 hours, open book.
- Graduation & Certificate! You are qualified to join VMGA as an intern.

What to do when you graduate...

1. Join VMGA as an intern and complete the volunteer service hours (over 2 years) to become a qualified Master Gardener. Or...
2. Just put your new knowledge to work in your own garden! You don't have to join the VMGA.

Registration

Victoria: September 17th, 2025

There are only 24 spaces in the program each year.
They usually fill shortly after the registration opens.

Cost: \$75 when you apply + \$795 by Dec 1 (\$870 Total)

Register ONLINE (preferred)

Join the **Master Gardener Interest List** to receive all registration details and a reminder before registration opens.

What if I don't get in?

You will be added to the waiting list.

There can be movement in the confirmed list,
so hang in there as long as you can.

If you change your plans, or don't want to wait any more,
please drop off the waiting to move others up more quickly.

QUESTIONS?

janet@hcp.ca

Master Gardener Training 2026

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SALT SPRING ISLAND MG TRAINING

Program Organization

- Pilot program in cooperation with the Salt Spring Island Garden Club
- Simultaneous with the Victoria Training Program, shared instructors, classes and resources.
- The HCP will administrate the program.
- HCP and SSI will join other BC MG chapters for some online classes.
- SSI graduates of the program will be eligible to join the VMGA chapter.
- SSI-based clinics and volunteer projects will be available.
- Huge thanks to Pat Campbell!

Who is the program for?

Ideal candidates are:

- Home gardeners with some experience who are eager to learn.
- Newcomers to the region who want to know what to grow here.
- Those with a desire to share up-to-date, science-based gardening knowledge with the community.
- Very experienced “trial and error” gardeners

Who is it NOT for?

- Those looking for career training in horticulture
- Anyone with full focus on food production

Topics & Instructors

Approx. 80 hours of instruction

- Botany & soils with Laura Biggs (zoom and in person)
- Plant ID with Jane Tice (zoom)
- Food Production & Pest/Disease Management with Linda Gilkeson (zoom only)
- Landscape Design with Bethany Couture (in person)
- Pruning
- Propagation
- Specialty topics (ie. Native Plants, Invasive, Roses, Field Trips)

Expectations

Homework, attendance & final exam (80%)

- Weekly readings from textbooks (one digital, one book)
- Approximately 15 hours homework - assignments to be submitted
- Attendance at in-person classes mandatory
- Most Zoom classes are recorded & available for 2 weeks
- Final Exam: 3 hours, open book
- Graduation & Certificate! You are qualified to join VMGA as an intern.

Schedule

Blended delivery (in-person and via Zoom)

Normally 2x per week, late January to mid-May

- SATURDAYS, 9am-12 or 1-4pm, in person
- THURSDAYS, 6-9 pm, via ZOOM
- Some TUESDAYS, recordings available.
- SPECIAL EVENTS (x2) Sundays at HCP

Locations

****Salt Spring Island (Lions)****

+

HCP (first class, MG clinic)

+

****Online via Zoom****

+

Field Trips

What to do when you graduate...

1. Join VMGA as an intern and complete the volunteer service hours (over 2 years) to become a qualified Master Gardener. Or...
2. Just put your new knowledge to work in your own garden! You don't have to join the VMGA.

Registration

Salt Spring Island: September 24th, 2025

There are 24 spaces in the program.

Cost: \$50 when you apply + \$700 by Dec 1 (\$750 Total)

Register ONLINE (preferred)

Join the **Master Gardener Interest List** to receive all registration details and a reminder before registration opens.

QUESTIONS?

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