

2024 Spring Extension Master Gardener Initial Training

montgomery.ces.ncsu.edu

Course Outline and Syllabus

Instructor Name:

Owen Washam, Extension Agent, Horticulture and Forestry – Montgomery County Center

owen_washam@ncsu.edu

(910) 576-6011

Office hours: By requested appointment

Guest Instructors include other County Extension agents and/or Certified Extension Master Gardener Volunteers

Course Delivery:

Face to Face / In Person at Extension (203 W. Main St., Troy, NC)

- Each class and field trip will meet in the Education Room. Enter the Extension office from Liberty St. Continue past the administrative desk, down the hall and the Education Room will be the big room on your left through the double doors.

Required Materials:

- North Carolina Extension Gardener Handbook, Second Edition
 - [Free online](#). Hard copies can be ordered for a fee by request to the instructor.
- Tablet, Laptop, and/or Internet Capable Device.
- Course fee (\$100) paid by cash or check to County Office by/on Jan. 8, 2024

Recommended Supplies:

- Folder or Binder
- Notebook/Looseleaf
- Pens/Pencils
- Gardening Gloves for applied learning
- Appropriate attire for protection from the elements
- Reusable water bottle

Course Description:

N.C. Cooperative Extension provides research-based information to all North Carolinians, including the Eastern Cherokee Indian Nation. The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 made Cooperative Extension a national effort, and in N.C. services are jointly delivered by NC State and N.C. A&T Universities.

During Initial Training you, the Extension Master Gardener Student, will receive research-based information that you will later use as an EMG Intern and Certified Volunteer to provide to your community and assist them in making decisions. Initial Training classes will run for approximately 16 weeks from January to May 2024. The tentative course schedule is detailed further in the syllabus.

Course Communication:

Course communication will be through email. Please add owen_washam@ncsu.edu to your address book. If you would like to be called and informed, please request this. Email is optimal for group communication. An app (eg. GroupMe, Slack) may be adopted for this reason if the class decides to do so.

Student Learning Outcomes	Evaluation Methods
Demonstrate an understanding of course concepts in all topics covered by the course.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework • Final Exam
Learn how to find and communicate research-based information to provide to community members with questions related to gardening, and by extension, soil health and land management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework • Activities • Field Trips • Final Exam
Demonstrate gain in knowledge among all subjects covered in the course.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework • Surveys • Final Exam

Course Schedule:

Subject to change at the instructor's discretion. All classes are mandatory. **1 (one)** class absence will be allowed for personal use. Saturday field trips are mandatory and Students are highly encouraged to prioritize these valuable experiences.

Please contact the instructor prior to class beginning if more than 1 schedule conflict arises. If you need accommodations due to illness, circumstance, or hardship, please email the instructor directly as soon as possible. Class or field trip absences will require make up work, at the discretion of the instructor, due no more than 10 (ten) days after the absence.

Total Hours	Class Date and Instructor	Topic(s) Covered	Homework (HW)
2	01/08/2024: 3pm – 5pm Owen Washam	Orientation Evaluation Introduction to Extension Meet the Master Gardeners	Meet our County Staff! Logon to EMG Intranet Read EMG State Guidelines
-	01/15/2024	No Meeting – MLK Day	-
4	01/22/2024: 3pm – 5pm Sam Boring	Woody Ornamentals Herbaceous Ornamentals	Read Ch 10, 11 Ornamentals HW
6	01/29/2024: 3pm – 5pm Owen Washam	Organic Gardening Vegetable Gardening	Read Ch 16, 17 Gardening HW
8	02/05/2024: 3pm – 5pm Andrew Pfeifer	Wildlife Composting	Read Ch 2, 20 HW TBA
10	02/12/2024: 3pm – 5pm Owen Washam	Diagnostics Integrated Pest Mgmt. (IPM)	Read Ch 7, 8 HW TBA

Total Hours	Class Date and Instructor	Topic(s) Covered	Homework
12	02/19/2024: 3pm – 5pm Kinsey Watkins	Landscape Design Weeds	Read Ch 6, 19 HW TBA
14	02/26/2024: 3pm – 5pm Owen Washam	Container Gardening	Read Ch 18 HW TBA
16	03/04/2024: 3pm – 5pm Andrew Pfeifer	Insects Native Plants	Read Ch 4, 12 HW TBA
18	03/11/2024: 3pm – 5pm Sam Boring	Lawns Small Fruits	Read Ch 9, 14 HW TBA
22	FIELD TRIP 1 Saturday 03/16/2024: 9am – 5pm Owen Washam	Details TBA. Meet @ Extension 9 am. Transportation provided.	TBA
-	03/18/2024	No Meeting - Break	-
24	03/25/2024: 3pm – 5pm Owen Washam	Botany <i>Bring Your Plant to Class Day!</i> Review	Read Ch 3 Botany HW
-	04/01/2024	No Meeting - Break	-
28	FIELD TRIP 2 Saturday 04/06/2024: 9am – 5pm Owen Washam	Details TBA. Meet @ Extension 9 am. Transportation provided.	TBA
30	04/08/2023: 3pm – 5pm Cody Craddock	Plant Propagation Tree Fruits & Nuts	Read Ch 13, 15 HW TBA
32	04/15/2023: 3pm – 5pm Savanah Laur	Soil and Plant Nutrients	Read Ch 1 HW TBA
34	04/22/2023: 3pm – 5pm <i>Instructor TBD</i>	Therapeutic Horticulture Plant Sale Prep	Read Ch 21 Bring garden gloves
36	04/29/2024: 3pm – 5pm <i>Instructor TBD</i>	Diseases and Disorders Plant Sale Prep	Read Ch 5 Bring garden gloves
-	May 3-4, 2024 <i>EMGV Montgomery County</i>	EMGV Montgomery County Plant Sale (Attendance Encouraged)	NA. Opportunity to meet Certified Volunteers and earn your first Internship hours.

Total Hours	Class Date and Instructor	Topic(s) Covered	Homework
38	05/06/2024: 2pm – 5pm *** Optional review from 2-3 pm Owen Washam	Final Exam 3 - 5 pm	Final Exam
40	05/13/2024: 3pm – 5pm Owen Washam	Exit Evaluation Celebration and Awards	Extension Master Gardener Social

Intranet Hour Entry

All activity hours are required to be tracked and entered, this is the responsibility of individual students. This is done via the Extension Master Gardener Intranet at <https://emgintranet.ces.ncsu.edu/accounts/login/>.

Two types of hours are applicable, Educational and Volunteer hours. During Initial Training, students will log at least 40 Educational hours. As an Intern, volunteers will log at least 40 Volunteer hours.

Homework Assignments

Homework assignments will be sent home with all class participants and will be based on the assigned readings and classes. Homework will contain open ended questions that will be similar to many of the final exam questions. Homework will be self-graded at the following class as the instructor reads aloud and discusses with Students best possible answers.

It is recommended that Students fully complete homework weekly to prepare for the final exam. Studying homework questions are the best way to study for the exam.

Final Exam

The final exam will be on May 13, 2023 from 3pm – 5pm. We will meet at 2 pm for an optional, but highly encouraged to attend, review hour. The comprehensive, open book exam will begin at 3 pm and exams will be collected no later than 5 pm.

Some questions on the exam may be derived from old homework assignments. The exam will be graded by the instructor and grades will be discussed with students. A passing score of 80% must be achieved in order to graduate Initial Training. Non passing participants will be notified on an individual basis and offered a retest.

Field Trips

This class will take 2 mandatory field trips which are scheduled for Saturdays, March 16 and April 6, 2024. Please mark your calendars now. These dates were determined to work best for maximum class attendance, however the instructor respects previously communicated schedule conflicts. Students must notify the instructor of Field Trip absence, and discuss make up activities on a case-by-case basis with the instructor.

If there is a known conflict with either of the above dates, contact the instructor prior to March 1, 2024.

Extension Master Gardener Volunteer (EMG) Title Promotion

You are entering the Montgomery County EMG program as a **Student**. Upon successful participation of the 40-hour total educational classes and field trips, passing of the final exam, and entering hours on the Intranet; you will be conferred the title **EMG Intern**. As an **EMG Intern**, you are required to volunteer 40 hours with Certified Volunteers under their supervision. These volunteer hours must be completed within 1 (one) year of passing the Initial Training final exam. Upon fulfilling these requirements, you will be conferred the title **Certified Volunteer**.

For example, Cindy passed their final exam on March 1, 2022. Personal obligations limit Cindy's free time so they volunteered with Certified Volunteers for 40 total hours between March 1 2022 and March 1 2023. They will be Certified at the 2023 Awards Ceremony.

Steve also passed his exam on March 1, 2022. They have a lot of free time, and are ambitious – so Steve volunteered with Certified Volunteers for 40 total hours between March 1 and July 29, 2022. They will be awarded Certification at the 2022 Awards Ceremony.

Certified Extension Master Gardener Volunteers are expected to be independent deliverers of horticultural knowledge and education within their community under Extension supervision. Certified Volunteers must maintain their membership by annual hour requirements and nominal County dues, and are recognized at the annual awards ceremony in December for their cumulative hours and years of service.

Syllabus Acknowledgement and Agreement

1. I have read and agree to this syllabus and will notify Owen Washam at owen_washam@ncsu.edu or 910 576 6011 with any concerns.
2. I will pay the one-time Fee (\$100) to the Montgomery County Extension office by cash or check, on or by Jan 8, 2024.
3. I agree to make best efforts to attend all classes and field trips. In event of an absence, I will notify Owen promptly. I understand I am allowed (1) one class absence, and that both field trips are mandatory.
4. I agree to and will abide by the [NC State EMG Program Guidelines](#), with special attention to [Appendix C. NC State Extension Master Gardener Program Student / Intern Code of Conduct Form](#).
In short: I will conduct myself professionally and treat others with respect. I can request physical copies of the above documents from Owen.

Disagreements in horticultural theory and application are natural and healthy, and I will respect others', at times conflicting, views. There are countless ways to garden and live well, but I will choose kindness over disrespect upon disagreements. I recognize it is a privilege to be a Volunteer, and Code of Conduct violations will be addressed and evaluated by Extension, which reserves the right to dismiss Volunteers.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Student Name (Printed) _____