

# Organic Master Gardener Course 2017

With  
Alberta  
Specific Organic  
Gardening Courses



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# Organic Master Gardener

## Heritage Agricultural Society Stony Plain Organic Master Gardener



## Overview

The Organic Master Gardener program is offered through the Stony Plain Heritage Agricultural Society at the Stony Plain Multicultural Heritage Centre and its Demonstration Farm. The Heritage Agricultural Society has partnered with Gaia College of Victoria B.C. to create the unique curriculum for the program.

Organic agriculture generally means gardening without the use of chemicals, pesticides, and other substances that could contribute to soil, plant, and human health and/or environmental concerns, but organic gardening is more than just NOT adding things. Organic gardening embraces a more ecological paradigm in all its practices. The Demonstration Farm, operated by the Multicultural Heritage Centre, Stony Plain, offers Organic Master Gardener program students a perfect opportunity to experience and experiment with organic growing methods.

Individuals who are interested in organic gardening and food production are encouraged to participate in the Organic Master Gardener Program. Through education and volunteer hours the participants will acquire an Organic Master Gardener Certificate and become one of thousands across North America who benefit from the sense of accomplishment in learning about organic horticulture and from giving back to their community.

Master Gardener programs exist in all 50 states and in 5 provinces in Canada. Once in the program, participants will have opportunities to be linked with similar programs elsewhere. Students are encouraged to connect with Alberta's Master Gardener Association as well. ([www.mgaab.org](http://www.mgaab.org))



# Education Component

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The Stony Plain Organic Master Gardener Course requires participation in 78 instructional hours. These instructional hours are made up of 26 three - hour sessions offered Wednesday evenings and two Saturdays between February and November of each year. As well students will spend approximately 6 other hours that include orientation, presentations and completion ceremonies and 15 hours in 3 mandatory outdoors Work Bee sessions at the Centre.

Students must complete all 78 hours of educational course work and the 15 work bee hours for certification. Should a student be unable to attend two or more sessions, the certificate of completion will not be awarded until the missed sessions are taken the following year or beyond. It is in the best interest of the student to take all sessions as they are offered in each year, as in some ways most sessions build one on the other. However, there is no penalty for students doing the program over 2 or more years.

# Volunteer Component

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The volunteer component is important to the Organic Master Gardener Program for two reasons. First, it provides the opportunity for the participants to gain valuable hands-on experience to complement the in-class component of their learning. Secondly, it provides the Multicultural Heritage Centre and the community at large the opportunity of having knowledgeable leaders in organic horticulture/agriculture contributing to local projects.

Each participant must complete 50 volunteer hours from the date of registering in the program, to be spent working on the Multicultural Heritage Centre / Demonstration Farm sites unless another location is negotiated with the program administrator. These 50 volunteer hours are a requirement for certification.

Note: There are 3, five hour Saturday sessions called "Work Bees"(see above) throughout the year which count toward the 50 volunteer hours at the Centre.



# Project Component

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Participants must propose a project that they are willing to initiate and establish. It is certainly acceptable to plan and begin a project that may take more than one growing season of the student's time to complete but we urge students to choose a narrow project that can be completed in the first year of study.

This project proposal will be discussed / planned with the Student Project Mentor, and perhaps with the program administrator, for feasibility and appropriateness.

This project is a requirement for certification. Since a project on the Multicultural Heritage Centre / Demonstration Farm grounds takes many volunteer hours, students will be able to use the hours spent on that project toward their 50 volunteer hours. Projects can also be done by small groups of students.

# Graduation/Certification Requirements

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The following must be completed for certification:

- The Student's Passport, which records attendance and volunteer hours, must be turned in to the program administrator in October.
- Attendance at all 26, three - hour courses (proved by the student's signed Passport)
- Attendance at three - 5 hour work bees on the Multicultural Heritage Centre grounds.
- A Course Evaluation form must be turned in to the program administrator in early November.
- A student portfolio of course work, notes, hand outs and assignments plus a Herbarium must be completed and handed in at the end of the year. (These will be returned.)
- 50 volunteer hours on a project or projects of choice at the Centre.
- An end-of-term presentation (5 minutes in length) which would be given at the graduation evening in November.
- Course fee payment must be complete.



# Evaluation

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This program does not include any written examinations.

Rather, the evaluation of students will be made on course attendance, participation in the courses, and the other requirements as mentioned above.

# Course Fees

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Fee For the Program:

\$1250 to be paid as soon as possible after February 3, 2016

Payable to the:

Heritage Agricultural Society  
Box 2188, Stony Plain, Alberta  
T7Z 1X7

To register for the program, a student must pay a registration fee of \$250 BEFORE the first class. PayPal is available for that on our website. That will leave a balance of \$1000.

Payment by installments is easily arranged with the program administrator. We want to make conditions as favourable as possible for students' family finances.

This \$1250 fee covers 26 - three hour instructional sessions offered Wednesday evenings and some Saturdays between February and November of each year. The fee will cover administration, all Gaia College course instruction, handouts and local resources, a copy of the textbook "Working with Nature - Shifting Paradigms" by Heide Hermary, a copy of "The Soil Biology Primer", and all the very extensive Gaia College Organic Master Gardener Course web pages.

Payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card... in person at the Multicultural Heritage Centre in Stony Plain, in class to the program administrator, by mail to the Centre, or by Pay Pal on the Centre's website: [www.multicentre.org](http://www.multicentre.org). (Look Under the Organic Master Gardener Program Tab on the Home Page.)

This tuition fee is tax - deductible.



# Enrollment Cancellation Policy

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Cancellations received in writing or via email 10 working days or more prior to the commencement of the first class will be fully refunded.

Cancellations received less than 10 working days before the program begins will be subject to a \$150 de-enrolment fee.

No refund will be issued to a no-show or to a student having to leave the program before its conclusion.

In the latter instance, the student can return to complete the program (make up the missed courses) the following year, and is encouraged to do so.

A student will be considered 'registered" for the program once the \$250 fee has been received. (That would leave the student a balance of \$1000 to be paid after the start of the program. Of course, a student may pay that remaining \$1000 at any time, or make a full payment at any time, or may pay in installments.)

- Full refund would be given ONLY if notice is sent to the program administrator in writing or via email 10 working days before the commencement of the program.





# Course Instructors

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**Dustin Bajer** is an educator, permaculture designer, master gardener, and self-described network nerd. Raised in the country and living in the city, Dustin is passionate about design that combines natural and built elements.

Dustin graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Education (Physics and Mathematics) and has over ten years of classroom experience. He is also a graduate of the Organic Master Gardener Program. Since 2009, Dustin has been practicing permaculture and in 2010 pitched the idea of creating a cross-curricular school garden to the principal of Jasper Place High School. Since then, Dustin and his students have designed two school food forests and have built Canada's first high school aquaponics system.

In 2011, Dustin began building beehives and keeping honeybees in his urban backyard. He currently sells his beecentric beehive design on the local market and produces more honey than he knows what to do with.

**Tasha Bradsell** has a background, not in horticulture but in the media. She worked for over 20 years in the broadcast media, as a writer, producer, host, news anchor and free-lancer. Throughout her career, Tasha took a deep interest in environmental issues. She created Alberta's first radio show that was devoted to the environment, and later in her TV work she interviewed world-renowned environmentalists including Paul Watson and David Suzuki. As a journalist, Tasha also covered the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

In 2006, Tasha left the media to pursue her passion for gardening and purchased a small greenhouse which she has grown into the amazing Baraka Gardens in Parkland County.

**Claudia Bolli** is a nature lover, gardener and teacher. Her desire to contribute to society and protect our planet has led her to permaculture, a design system for human habitat that is inspired by relationships found in nature.

She shares her passion for growing food through workshops, permaculture design, and greening projects with schools. Her education includes a B.Ed., and a Diploma in Biological Sciences. She has completed a Permaculture Design Certificate, Master Naturalist training, is a Gaia College accredited Organic Master Gardener, and has taken numerous gardening courses, and workshops from The Urban Farmer and other inspiring teachers.

Claudia is the owner of Wild Green Garden Consulting, [www.wildgreen.ca](http://www.wildgreen.ca), in Edmonton.



# Course Instructors

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**Jennifer Burns-Robinson** has 20+ years of growing experience to share. She started out in a garden centre, studied Prairie Horticulture through Assiniboine College, and then decided to study the design and drafting of the landscape through the Landscape Architectural Technology Diploma at NAIT.

While working as an LAT, she earned her Certified Arborist Designation. She also has been trained as a Master Composter/Recycler with the City of Edmonton. Right now she is working on growing the perfect tomato and defeating cabbage moth in her backyard garden, while raising her family. Jennifer is a graduate of the Organic Master Gardener Program in Stony Plain.

**Ed Delong** is an Instructor for the Organic Master Gardener Program here at (he says) “Stony Plain’s most famous historical site, the Multicultural Heritage Centre”. Ed’s love of landscaping began way back in 1986 when he signed up for an apprenticeship through Olds College in the Journeyman Landscape Gardener Program. That opened the door to many great opportunities and experiences for him over the years since his graduation in 1990.

Ed says, “As we all never stop learning, through this program I have been taught and am teaching the methods provided by Gaia College that are truly the best way to achieve the healthiest of soils, plants, turf and food that can be grown; so come out and find out for yourself how to help your own back yard environment.” Ed is a Gaia College accredited Organic Master Gardener.

**Bernice Kadatz** operates a biologically dynamic farm with her partner near Tofield, Alberta. The farm is home to cattle, horses, poultry, bees, and compost worms. Bernice has considerable experience in organic farming and gardening practices, as well as over 33 years experience in analytical chemistry with the Alberta Research Council. Although, she has retired from her work with ARC, finding practical solutions for returning health to the soil fills her research appetite. Bernice has developed several soil amendment products that are producing tremendous results, especially in trouble soils.

Bernice has been passing on her extensive knowledge of the soil since 2011 by teaching several courses in the Gaia College OMG program from which she is also a graduate. Bernice’s passion for returning health to the soil and ultimately the earth is exceeded only by her drive to share her knowledge with her students. One of her greatest attributes is her ability to take the complex chemical and biological systems of the soil and break it down into simple language everyone can understand.

Bernice has presented talks and posters on organic food production both locally and internationally.





# Course Instructors

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**Patty Milligan lives** in the Bon Accord area on her grandparents' farm with her young son, Rory. They have two cats, three beehives, five hens, and a St. Bernard. Patty comes from a long line of 4-H Garden Club leaders. She enjoys gardening, looking at gardens, learning about gardens, and writing about gardens.

Patty spent twelve years as a small-scale beekeeper, selling her honey at local farmers' markets, and is perhaps best known as "Lola Canola".

**Denise O'Reilly** has lived most of her life on her family's farm in Cherhill (NW of Edmonton on Hwy. 43N). The farm has been in the family since 1910.

Denise achieved her Forestry Diploma with NAIT in 1986 and worked in the field for several years, as a forest Technician.

When Denise and her husband moved back to the family farm, they renamed the farm Hill and Dale Farm after what her great-grandparents had called it, and they now sell free range meat products, cheese and dairy produce (when available), wild foraged mushrooms and 20 kinds of garlic and related products to direct markets.

She sells seed locally and abroad, by mail order and through Seedy Sunday events, hosted by the Seeds of Diversity Group.

Denise is actively involved in the Alberta Mycological Society where she has won numerous awards for her photography. Denise conducts local summer mushroom hunts and identification courses. She writes for newspapers and magazines, and is current president of the Sangudo and District Horticultural Society. Her website for seeds is [gardenofeden2010.wordpress.com](http://gardenofeden2010.wordpress.com)

**Mark Stumpf-Allen** is a Compost Specialist and you can find him on YouTube! Mark is the City of Edmonton's Compost Programs Coordinator, for their Waste Management Services.

He says he has been trying to understand composting for decades. Every time he thinks he knows what he's doing, nature finds a way to teach him something new.

As Edmonton's Compost Programs Coordinator, for the City's Waste Management Services, he's helped countless families learn the basics of composting, and he even offers email and telephone support when nature throws a curve-ball.

Mark has delivered composting workshops for the City of Edmonton, the Town of Devon, the Strathcona Garden Club, and in smaller communities around central Alberta. He joined our team in 2014.



# Course Instructors

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**Lorraine Taylor** grew up in Edmonton. After graduating from the U of A, working for Alberta Agriculture as an Extension Horticulturist, and spending 6 months bicycling around Europe, she moved west and has raised sheep for 25 years.

Currently Lorraine is the Horticulturist and Conservation Program Coordinator for the Agriculture Services Department with Lac Ste. Anne County. She is a certified Gaia College Organic Master Gardener and has instructed for the Devonian Garden's Master Gardener program in the past. Lorraine has been a valued instructor in the Stony Plain OMG program since the program began, eight years ago. Lorraine has a degree in horticulture and has over 20 years of experience in the industry.

**Bill Waitt** lives and gardens near Stony Plain. Bill is a 2011 graduate of the Stony Plain Organic Master Gardener program, having grown organically in his family's two gardens and apple yard for decades.

Bill feels the OMG is a brilliant partnership between the Stony Plain Multicultural Heritage Centre and Gaia College, in BC. From 2012 to 2015 Bill has led the OMG students and others to coordinate student volunteer hours and projects, and to improve the grounds at the MHC.

Before retirement, Bill worked many years with AADAC (the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission) and was provincial manager of Learning Services for the Commission. Bill's other interests include composting, eating, soils and amendments, home roasting coffee beans, the Eskimos (first in the West), food systems and group facilitation - not necessarily in that order.



# Course Schedule

**NOTE:** A small assignment will be handed out at some classes (worksheet, research project, reading assignment, etc.) These assignments are not marked but must be completed and placed in a notebook that will become the student's portfolio, which is handed in as a graduation requirement. Where courses are designated with the word "Gaia", the course work has come directly from Gaia College curriculum.

## January 2017

**Wednesday, January 11**

7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Information Evening** at the Multicultural Heritage Centre, Stony Plain, for prospective students.

**Wednesday, January 18**

7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Information Evening** at the Multicultural Heritage Centre, Stony Plain, for prospective students.

For directions to the Centre or to find out about either of these two sessions, Contact the OMG administrator, at [jennifer@multicentre.org](mailto:jennifer@multicentre.org)

## February 2017

**Wednesday, February 8**

Student Orientation 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

...**And**....

**Wednesday, February 8**

**Course #1 Soil Ecosystem (Gaia)**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Bernice Kadatz

**Wednesday, February 15**

**Course #2 Botany (Gaia)**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Lorraine Taylor

**Wednesday, February 24**

**Course #3 Starting Seeds**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Denise O'Reilly



## March 2017

**Wednesday, March 1**

**Course #4 Soil Testing (Gaia)**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Bernice Kadatz

**Wednesday, March 8**

**Course # 5 Soil Fertility Management (Gaia)**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Bernice Kadatz

**Wednesday, March 22**

**Course # 6 Composting (Gaia)**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Mark Stumpf-Allen

**Talk to your project mentor about your plan for the required project.**

## April 2017

**Wednesday, April, 5**

**Course # 7 Teas and Brews (Gaia)**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Mark Stumpf-Allen

**Wednesday, April 12**

**Course # 8 Growing Vegetables**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Jennifer Burns-Robinson

**Saturday, April 22**

**Course # 9 Pruning Science (Gaia)**

9:00 a.m. - noon

...And....

**Course #10 Pruning Practicum (Gaia)**

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Instructor: Ed Delong

**Wednesday, April 26**

**Course # 11 Introduction to Greenhouse Growing**

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

At Baraka Gardens

Instructor: Tasha Bradsell



# May 2017

**Saturday, May 6**

**Spring Work Bee**

9:30 a.m. – noon

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Instructor: Bill Waitt

**Wednesday, May 10**

**Course # 12 Herbaceous Plant Propagation**

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Lorraine Taylor

**Wednesday, May 24**

**Course # 13 Garden Bed Installation (Gaia)**

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Claudia Bolli

# June 2017

**Wednesday, June 7**

**Course # 14 Permaculture (Gaia)**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Claudia Bolli

**Wednesday, June 14**

**Course # 15 Plant I.D.**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

At George Pegg Botanic Garden - Lac Ste. Anne County

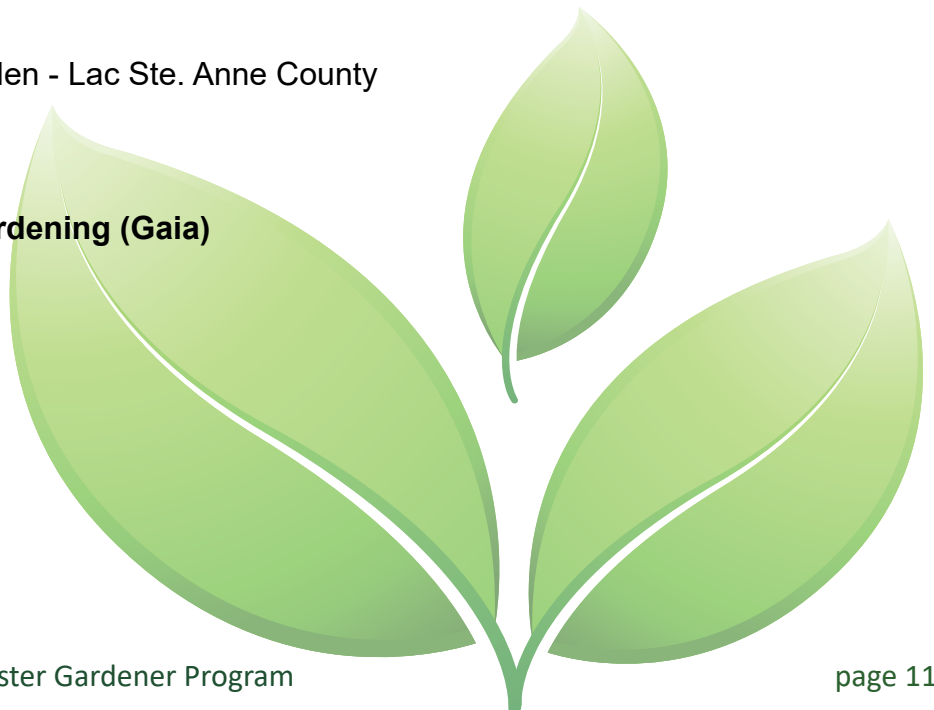
Instructor: Lorraine Taylor

**Wednesday, June 28**

**Course # 16 Water-Wise Gardening (Gaia)**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Ed DeLong



## July 2017

**Wednesday, July 5**

**Course # 17 Lawns (Gaia)**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Ed DeLong

**Saturday, July 15**

**Summer Work Bee**

9:30 a.m. – noon

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Instructor: Bill Waitt

**Wednesday, July 19**

**Course # 18 Tree & Shrub I.D.**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

At the U of A Campus

Instructor: Lorraine Taylor

## August 2017

**Saturday, August 12**

**Course # 19 Landscape Health (Gaia)**

9:00 a.m. - noon

Instructor: Patty Milligan

...And....

**Saturday, August 12**

**Course # 20 Plants for the Prairie Landscape**

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Instructor: Jennifer Burns-Robinson

**Wednesday, August 16**

**Course # 21 Northern Fruit Crops**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Jennifer Burns-Robinson





# September 2017

**Wednesday, September 6**

**Course # 22 Making the Most of Your Harvest**

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Patty Milligan

**Wednesday, September 13**

**Course # 23 Saving Seeds**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Denise O'Reilly

**Wednesday, September 27**

**Course # 24 Garden Design & Construction (Gaia)**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Jennifer Burns-Robinson

**Saturday, September 30**

**Fall Work Bee**

9:30 a.m. – noon

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Instructor: Bill Waitt

# October 2017

**Wednesday, October 11**

**Course # 25 Plant Problem I.D.**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Lorraine Taylor

**Wednesday, October 19**

**Course # 26 Local Food Systems**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Dustin Bajer

**Wednesday, October 25**

**A Make-Up Class**

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

in case of a cancellation earlier in the year

(i.e. weather related)

Instructor: As necessary

**Portfolios are due no later than today, the 25th!**



# November 2017

**Wednesday, November 8**

**OMG Graduation Evening**

5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

All students to attend.

Presentations by Students

Instructor: All



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