

2026 Denton County Master Gardener Class Schedule

Dates	Topics	Instructors
January 27	-AM: Master Gardener Intern Orientation -PM: Testing Instructions -Lunch Provided by Mentors -Afternoon Skills Stretch: "Cleaning Your Tools" -Reading Assignment: Chapter 1, Pages 1 - 8 "Welcome, Master Gardeners"	Erin Smith, Denton County Extension Agent; Sandra Erp, TX A&M AgriLife; BoD & Mary Cissell, Testing/Evaluation Team, Bonnie Ambrose, Lunch & Learn Team
February 3	-AM: Plant Development -PM: All About VMS and DCMGA Website -PM: Assign POD Project -Lunch & Learn: "Bucket List" -Afternoon Skills Stretch: "Stay Sharp!" -Reading: Chapter 3, Pages 29 - 46, "Plant Development"	Jayla Fry, State Coordinator for TX Master Gardeners; S Cosio, T Gurley, S Hudiburgh, S Manfredi, K Wootton, P Spooner: DCMGA VMS Team and Webmaster
February 10	All Day: The Soil Environment & Prepping an Earth-Kind Garden -Lunch & Learn: "Volunteer Jeopardy" -Afternoon Skills Stretch: "Tour of GS Composting" -Reading Assignment: Chapter 5, Pages 73 - 86 "Soil Characteristics" and Chapter 6, Pages 87 - 112, "Soil Improvement"	Brad Voss, Collin County Horticulture Agent, Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension; Lunch & Learn Team; Daniel Arenas
February 11	Volunteer Opportunity Fair – Meet Project Managers and Learn About Volunteer Opportunities! *Large room across the Parking Lot	2 Volunteer Service Hours Provided to Interns 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
February 17	-AM: Texas Trees and How to Care for Them -PM: Tree Pruning and Local Trees -Lunch & Learn: "No Fake IDs -Name That Tree!" -Afternoon Skills Stretch: -Reading Assignment: Chapter 8, Pages 133 - 166, "Ornamental Plants" and Chapter 12, Pages 309 - 322, "Landscape Design"	Courtney Blevins, TX A&M Forest Service; Pat Moyer, DCMGA; Lunch & Learn Team; Citizen Foresters
February 24	Field Trip to Dallas Center: Entomology & Integrated Pest Management -Reading Assignment: Chapter 13, Pages 323 - 356 "Integrated Pest Management" and Chapter 15, Pages 373 - 390 "Insects" ***Note Change of Location!	Janet Hurley, Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension

March 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Rainwater Harvesting & Irrigation -Lunch & Learn: "Barrel of Rainwater Fun" -PM: "Irrigation Isn't Irritating!" -Afternoon Skills Stretch: Olla Gardening -Reading Assignment: Chapter 7, Pages 113 - 132 "Water" 	<p>Dr. Fouad Jaber & Dean Mincillo, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension;</p> <p>Lunch & Learn Team;</p> <p>Jeff Hardgrave, Certified Rainwater Harvesting Advanced Training</p>
March 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -AM & PM: Growing Vegetables & Herbs -Lunch & Learn: "Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie, So Good to Eat and Very Greenie!" -Afternoon Skills Stretch: Herbal Branch -Reading Assignment: Chapter 10, Pages 191 - 258 "Vegetables and Herbs" 	<p>Daniel Cunningham, Rooted In;</p> <p>Lisa Marlow, Herbal Branch Team;</p> <p>Lunch & Learn Team</p>
March 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -AM: Earth -Kind Landscaping and Crash Course in Landscape Design -PM: Native Plant Landscaping -Afternoon Skills Stretch: Project Work Time -Reading Assignment: Chapter 2, Pages 9 - 28 "Earth -Kind Landscaping" 	<p>Kathy Rainey, Gardenscapers;</p> <p>Liz Moyer, DCMGA</p>
March 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -AM: Vermiculture -PM: Composting: Daniel Arenas -Lunch & Learn: Lasagna Gardens - "Layer It Up" -Afternoon Skills Stretch: Tour of Beulah Acres *NO TEST, ONLY EVALUATION THIS WEEK! 	<p>Pat and Don Edwards;</p> <p>Daniel Arenas, DCMGA/Global Spheres;</p> <p>Lunch & Learn Team</p>
March 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Turfgrass Culture -Lunch & Learn: Alternatives to Turfgrass - "Take My Lawn . . ." -Afternoon Skills Stretch: Aquaponics -Reading Assignment: Chapter 9, Pages 167 - 190 "Lawn Care" and Chapter 16, Pages 391 - 406 "Weeds" 	<p>Dr. Hennen Cummings, Tarleton State University;</p> <p>Lunch & Learn Team;</p> <p>Ronnie Aquino</p>

April 7	-AM Growing Fruits *Note this is on Zoom -Lunch & Learn: Preserving Fruits and Vegetables -"Can, Pickle, Freeze & Dry. . .Oh, My!" -PM: Field Trip: Shiloh Garden -Reading Assignment: Chapter 11, Pages 259 - 308 "Fruit Trees, Berries, and Pecans"	Michael Cook and Dr. Tim Hartmann, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension; Lunch & Learn Team; Nancy DiMarco, Shiloh Field
April 14	-All Day: Plant Propagation -Reading Assignment: Chapter 4, Pages 47 - 72 "Plant Propagation"	Joanne and Steve Spurgin and Plant Propagation Team
April 21	-All Day: Plant Pathology -Lunch & Learn: Preserving Fruits/Vegetables -Reading Assignment: Chapter 14, Pages 357 - 372 "Diseases"	Dr. Kevin Ong, AgriLife Research & Extension; Lunch & Learn Team
April 28	-AM: Congrats from Our Leaders! -AM: POD Field Trip Presentations -Lunch Provided By Mentors - YUM! -PM: Finish POD Presentations -PM: POD Parade! -Intern Q&A – What Happens Next?	Board, Mentors, Guests
May 5	Make-Up Day For Weather : WE HOPE NOT!	

- **Class is held each Tuesday at Global Spheres unless otherwise notified. Class Attendance** is critical to your success as a Master Gardener. The **minimum class training time you must achieve is 70 hours. If you will be absent or late to any class, you must contact the Class Admin listed before 9:00 AM.** If more than two classes are missed, continuation in the program is at the discretion of the Extension Agent. **In case of bad weather or other circumstances that may hinder the ability to meet,** please check email. Notification to Interns will occur ASAP. **Classes begin promptly at 9:00 AM and continue until 4:00 PM in person.** Tardiness and leaving early will result in a time deduction, so please be on time. **Weekly quizzes and evaluations are required** curriculum components, as are **Pre- and Post-tests.**
- **DCMGA's Volunteer Opportunity Fair is mandatory for attendance.** The Fair offers all volunteer opportunities for Interns and veterans. **Interns receive up to 2 volunteer service hours for attendance at the Fair.**
- **May 5 is scheduled as a Make-Up Day in the event we have to cancel a class due to extenuating circumstances. Please mark your calendar as it will be a required class if needed.**
- **In addition to training, Interns are required to log 70 Volunteer Service hours during 2026.**
- **The deadline for all Intern Volunteer Service hours and Training hours entries in VMS is December 15, 2026.**

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