



Program Goal:

To provide experienced Master Gardeners with advanced horticultural education with which to advise the gardening public.

The program

- The program provides intensive, advanced horticultural education.
- Students should be prepared to dedicate a large amount of time to study and research.
- Attendance at an orientation session or discussion with a committee member is expected.
- Attendance at MG workshops in Soils and Botany is recommended.

Who is eligible?

- A qualified MG who has received his or her certificate and who has completed the volunteer hours for both the previous year and for the current year prior to the start of the program.

- An MG who has sufficient experience to benefit from further intensive, in-depth training.

What does the program include?

- Core Course in Year 1.
- Electives in Years 2 and 3.
- MGs should take all 7 Electives when available.

How much time will it take?

- **Core Course:** 50 hours (5 hours each Tuesday for 10 weeks).
- **Electives:** 15 hours per Elective (5 hours on each of 3 days).
- **Additional Study:** Considerable time will be required for researching assignments which may necessitate time spent at the library.
- **Completion of Course:** Core Program plus 4 Electives, including either Plant Disease Diagnosing or Entomology, within 3 years. Completing all Electives is strongly encouraged.

What is the class size?

- A minimum of 21 and a maximum of 30 students are required for the Core Program.



How is the program organized?

- Instructors are all highly qualified, outstanding teachers, and enthusiastic about training volunteers.
- Members of the Advanced Training Program Committee, experienced MGs who are graduates of the Advanced Training Program, establish the overall curriculum, select instructors, organize the program, and co-ordinate all classes.

The Core Course



Botany - a basic course to assist MGs in answering gardeners' questions

Taxonomy - focusing on major plant families only

Right Place, Right Plant
Integrated Pest Management
Soils and Amendments



What are the course requirements?

- Attendance at all lectures and field trips.
- Reading of texts and handouts.
- On-time completion of all assignments and research papers for both the Core Course and each Elective.
- Assistance with small tasks such as coffee making, set-up, and plant collection in order to keep costs to a minimum.
- Fulfillment of MG volunteer hours.
- A certificate of completion and a pin will be awarded when the student has completed the program requirements.

Are there any other commitments?

- It is expected that Advanced Training graduates will share their knowledge in many volunteer activities.

What will it cost?

- Fees charged are designed to cover only the costs of our highly qualified instructors, supplies, equipment, and, when necessary, classroom space.
- The program is non-profit and exists in order to make additional education available for MG volunteers.
- Estimated costs:
 Core Course: \$350
 Four Elective Courses: \$360
 Each additional Elective: \$90

When do I pay?

- The Core Course fee is due in full by May 31st of the year that you are taking the course.
- The fees for each Elective are paid when you apply for each course.
- Course fees are non-refundable.

May I just take the Electives without taking the Core Course?

- No. The Electives are open only to MGs who have completed the Core Course.
- Graduates of the Advanced Training Program may attend lectures for courses that they have previously completed for \$15 per day.

Why is it structured that way?

- Teachers of the Electives base their courses on the assumption that you have a good knowledge of the information provided in the Core Course.

How and when must I register?

- Applications must be submitted together with the non-refundable fee of \$350 before May 31st of the year that the Core Course is offered.
- Attendance at an orientation session or discussion with a committee member is expected.

On what dates will the Core Course be presented?

- The course runs Tuesdays from mid-September until mid-November.
- The program is offered in alternate years if there is sufficient demand.

Where do I get an application form?

If you wish additional information and/or an application form and student agreement form, please call or email:

- June Pierson (Program Chair)
- Christine Deagle

advanced_training@vancouvermastergardeners.org

