

Organic Horticulture Specialist / Organic Master Gardener

Starts Online – runs each semester starting September, January, or May

Whether you are already a landscape professional, just beginning your education, or simply learning for personal enjoyment, this course will give you the knowledge you need to become a better gardener. You will receive a thorough introduction to the science and practice of organic horticulture, facilitating a profound shift in ecological awareness.

Going way beyond the idea of pesticide and fertilizer product substitution, you will understand the concepts of landscape health management as opposed to pest management, building a holistic decision making framework for creating and maintaining vibrantly healthy gardens and landscapes, including turf.

This course prepares you to:

- Grow fabulous, healthy gardens
- Gain essential skills to start or enhance your business in the rapidly growing organic land care industry sector
- Write the [SOUL Organic Accreditation](#) exam for land care professionals
- Earn generous continuing education credits for landscape professionals to maintain industry certifications (ISA, CNLA, BCSLA)
- Become involved in [SOUL \(Society for Organic Urban Land Care\)](#) and share your knowledge with your community through workshops, talks and other creative ways

No previous experience is required. **This course partially satisfies the requirements of:**

- Gaia College: Core course for [Diploma in Organic Land Care](#)
- Royal Roads: Core course for [Joint Royal Roads/ Gaia College Diploma in Organic Land Care](#)

What people are saying about the course:

“To be honest, my garden plot is a bit of a mess because of bad gardening practices and lack of knowledge of the soil’s ecosystem. My first season growing on the plot, I made the same mistakes as most of the other around me. After all I learned in this course I have a much better understanding of these things and will do a much better job this year.” L. Koetz



Growing Food Organically

Classroom or Online starting January, May or September

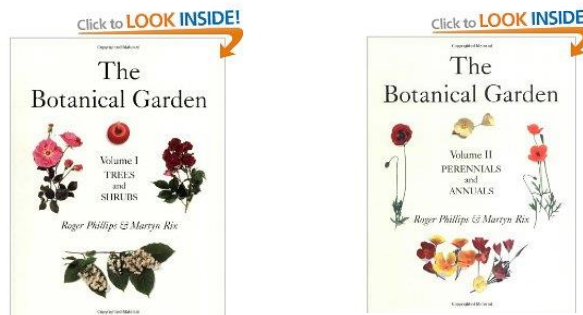
If you are concerned about how and where your food comes from or simply want to get the best nutrition possible, growing your own abundance of fruits and vegetables is the way to go. In this comprehensive new course you will learn essential applied permaculture and organic gardening techniques to:

- analyze and optimize the growing conditions in your garden, no matter the size, including container gardens
- creatively collect, use and preserve water for optimal garden health
- use holistic solutions for plant health problems (pests and diseases)
- select, plant, maintain and harvest a large variety of food plants for year-round enjoyment
- also included: how to propagate plants; save your own seeds; and store your harvest.

The online course is 14 weeks long and engages students with practical and hands-on projects, guided by experienced professional organic gardeners. The in-person classroom course includes some extra practicums and runs over 20 weeks. No prior education or gardening experience is required. This course partially satisfies the requirements for the Diploma in Organic Land Care from [Gaia College](#) or [Royal Roads University](#).

Ecological Plant Knowledge 2 – Ornamentals

Starts Online, May, or September



The plant identification component of this course emphasizes ornamental landscape plants including annuals, perennials, shrubs, deciduous and evergreen trees, which are commonly used in the ornamental landscape of the temperate and cooler northern hemisphere. Weed identification and arboriculture practices such as pruning: what, when and how, will also be covered as it relates to the different plant types.

This course partially satisfies the diploma requirements for [Organic Land Care program at Gaia College](#). Continuing education credits can also be earned to maintain industry certifications (SA, Canadian Nursery Landscape Association (CNLA), British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects (BCSLA), The Society for Organic Urban Land Care (SOUL).

Prerequisite: Ecological Plant Knowledge 1 - Natives.



Ecological Landscape Design

Starts Online, January, May, or September

This very comprehensive course begins with an overview of historical garden design perspectives, including an examination of the role of art, statuary, wildlife, water, and native ecosystems. The principles of landscape design and how the various elements are used in softscaping and hardscaping will be examined in detail on how to achieve particular esthetics and function. Design terminology and drafting skills will be applied when following the steps of the design process. Through case studies and project work, the topics of site analysis, hardscape construction and grading, estimating and landscape supplies, drainage and water solutions, site remediation and special needs will be covered. Throughout, presentation skills will be emphasized. **Please note:** This course has prerequisites – SketchUp Pro for Landscapers, and Organic Horticulture Specialist

For more info or to register:

Gaia College – [Ecological Landscape Design](#)

Royal Roads University – [Ecological Landscape Design](#)

For more horticulture / gardening courses click:

[Royal Roads University](#) and

[Gaia College](#)

Food and Nutrition courses:

Food, Nutrition, & Hospitality Management



This credit course is part of 2 programs: [Retirement Communities Management Graduate Certificate Program](#), and [Retirement and Long-term Care Management Program](#)

Offered every semester per year starting January, May, or September.

Dates and Colleges to register: <http://www.ontariolearn.com/>

This online 14 week course is designed to help you examine how food and nutrition can help to achieve optimum health and wellbeing. It will also provide an opportunity for you to investigate nutritional care for seniors through an understanding of food service operations and the Ministry of Health dietary standards. In this course, you will experience a combination of food preparation theory and service theory. The importance of developing strong organizational, team building and communication skills will be emphasized.

Testimonial: *"I learned a lot in this class. I was raised with a Mom who was in the Food Service Industry at hospitals (years before it became really complicated!), and I thought I had a relatively strong grasp on Food Service. This course taught me more and I wanted to let you know that I really enjoyed the course. The group work was a nice diversion from the usual assignments online. I think we really got to know the group members as a result of this. Thanks for your wisdom and have a wonderful summer!" Lynda T., Toronto*