



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

GARDENING SCHOOL

Series 9, Course 2 of 4

Courses may be taken in any order.

**September 25 and 26, 2025
(Eastern Time Zone)**

Presented virtually via



offered by



The
Federated Garden Clubs
of Connecticut, Inc.

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.

Nancy C. Merolla, President

[Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc.](#)

New England Garden Clubs, Inc.

Polly Brooks, Director

[New England Garden Clubs, Inc.](#)

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Donna Donnelly, President

[National Garden Clubs, Org.](#)

Objectives

All gardeners can become accomplished horticulturists. To assist its members in achieving this goal, National Garden Clubs, Inc. created the Gardening Schools. A school is a series of four two-day courses designed to:

- Stimulate interest in the growth of plant materials to their peak of perfection.
- Give the student an understanding of how and why a plant grows.
- Teach soil structure and methods for making the soil more productive.
- Provide an understanding of plants' reactions to certain weather conditions and how to modify these conditions to encourage optimal growth.
- Provide an understanding of commercial and natural fungicides and pesticides, growth regulators, and other chemicals used in general horticultural procedures.
- Illustrate methods for rapid propagation.
- Offer plant identification instruction.
- Explore growing techniques for garden plants, vegetables, fruits, houseplants, trees, shrubs, and specialized styles of gardening.
- Develop a respect for and appreciation of plants and their roles in our lives and activities.

Gardening Schools provide current information to those interested in horticulture and related topics. The curriculum has been developed by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC), and is customized by the course instructors. Classes are open to the public as well as garden club members. Garden club members who complete the series of four courses (and pass the exams) are certified as NGC Gardening Consultants.

General Information

The Consultant Certification is issued to NGC members after they have completed Gardening School Courses 1-4 with a passing grade of 70 or more on every exam. These four courses must be completed within seven years. Exams are optional. However, if you wish to be an accredited Gardening Consultant, you must take the exams. After passing two courses, a student may become a Provisional Consultant and join a Gardening Consultants Council. To remain in Good Standing, every five years Gardening Consultants must continue their education by attending a GS Refresher or a GS Course, no exam required. After a Consultant's fourth refresher, the Consultant becomes a Master Consultant. Consultants or Master Consultants may earn refresher credit only once within a calendar year.

Required Reading: *The National Gardener*
www.gardenclubs.org

Gardening School Committee

- Sarah McReynolds, NGC Gardening School Chair
- Cheryl Cappiali, State GS Chair, 203-314-3559
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- Cindy Eadie, Registrar, 203-645-3832
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- Shelley Hedberg, Tech Admin 860-417-3198
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Registration Requirements

Participants must have a desktop or laptop computer, tablet, IPAD with audio and video capability. Participants must attend a test/practice session to test their ability to use ZOOM and do a test check prior to the course. Date and time to be announced with registration confirmation.

Registration begins Aug 1, 2025. Registration deadline is Sept. 19, 2025.

<https://ctgardenclubs.org/education/schools/gardening-school/>

Registration is only online.

Cost: \$100 plus \$5 NGC fee = \$105.00 Total

Course 2 General Schedule and Curriculum

- Students may start with course 2; no prerequisite is required.
- Registration and virtual connection are scheduled for 8:00 – 8:30 a.m.
- The lectures begin at 8:30 a.m. and the day is done by 3:30 p.m.
- Exact schedule times will be provided at registration and at ctgardenclubs.org

Prof. Judith Sumner -Plant Diseases & Garden Pests*

Prof. Barbara Schaedler - Growing Vegetables*

Prof. Barbara Schaedler -Irrigation and Water*

Dr. Felicia Millett -Growing Fruits*

Prof. Judith Sumner -Ecology for Gardeners

Diane St. John -Lawn Alternatives & Growing Grass*

***Denotes tested material.**

Recommended Reading:

Botany for Gardeners, Brian Capon, Timber Press;

Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That

Starts in your Yard, Douglas Tallamy, Timber Press;

Secrets to Great Soil (Storey's Gardening Skills Illustrated
Guide for Students and Consultants, Elizabeth Stell.