

## NGC Gardening School

### 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 awarded the designation of NGC Gardening Consultant.

## GCO Gardening School

Series 10 Course 3

**Deadline for Registration:  
Aug17, 2026**

PARTICIPANTS MUST HAVE A DESKTOP OR LAPTOP COMPUTER, TABLET, OR IPAD WITH AUDIO AND VIDEO CAPABILITY.  
NOON PARTICIPANTS MUST ATTEND A TEST/PRACTICE SESSION TO TEST THEIR ABILITY TO USE ZOOM AND DO A TEST CHECK THE WEEK BEFORE: **Aug 17th**

REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION: Via Email  
**General Information:** *The Consultant Certification Card 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 becomes a Provisional Consultant and may 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](http://www.gardenclubs.org);

Recommended reading: See Handbook.

National Garden Clubs, Inc.



Garden Club  
of Ohio

## Gardening School

Series 10, Course 3

**Aug 24-25, 2026**

Presented virtually via



Franklin Park Conservator & Botanical Gardens

## GCO Gardening School

Series 10, Course 3

Registration Due Aug 17

Aug 24-25, 2026

### Deadline for Registration Aug 17

*No refunds after Aug 17, 2026*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Club: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Permitted Equipment:

Desktop or Laptop computer, Tablet or iPad

**Operating system\***: (circle one) *Microsoft Windows, Apple MacOS, Apple iOS on iPad, Android on Tablet*). Smartphones **not** permitted unless it's for "Hotspot" connectivity), Zoom 5.0+

*\*Meets Zoom.com System Requirements*

Please indicate your registration option:

- Full course with exam \$55
- Full course, no exam \$50
- Full course, refreshing \$55

*Note: Those refreshing or those not wishing to become NGC Gardening Consultants need not take the exams.*

**Make check payable to:**  
**GCO Gardening School**

#### Mail to Registrar:

Pat Rupiper  
1210 North St Apt 101  
Westerville, Oh 43081  
[patrupiper@gmail.com](mailto:patrupiper@gmail.com)

## GCO Gardening School

Course 3 Schedule

### Monday Aug 24, 2026

10:45 a.m. Announcements &  
tech check

11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Houseplant  
Basics **David Robson** (Horticulturalist)

12:00-12:15 p.m. Break

12:15-1:15 p. m. Reconciliation Ecology  
**Carrie Elvey** (Naturalist)

1:15-1:30 p.m. Break

1:30-2:30 Native Trees and Shrubs  
**Ann Bonner** ODNR Urban Forester

2:30-2:45 p.m. Break

2:45-4:45 Virtual Teaching Field Trip  
**Franklin Park Conservatory**

4:45 Review for Students

6:00 Google doc Quiz (Students)

### Tuesday Aug 25, 2026

10:45 Announcements &  
tech check

11:00 a.m. Factors that Influence Plant  
Growth **Dr. Kimberly Moore**

1:00 p.m. Break

1:15 p.m. New Plant Development and  
Evaluation **Dr. Kimberly Moore**

2:45 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. Container Gardening  
(outdoor) **Pat Rupiper**

4:30 p.m. Break Review for Students

6:00 p.m. Google Docs Quiz (Students)

## MEMBER OF: NGC SCHOOLS

### NGC Gardening School

National Gardening School Chairman

Sarah McReynolds

Regional GS Accrediting Chairman:

Carolyn Lowry-Nation

Central Atlantic Region of State Garden  
Clubs

Director: Beverly Kazickas

Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.

President Debra Turner

Gardening School Chairman

Pat Rupiper: [patrupiper@gmail.com](mailto:patrupiper@gmail.com)

Cell: 740-703-3683

Technical Admin:

Mary Ann Ferguson - Rich

[mafergusonrich@gmail.com](mailto:mafergusonrich@gmail.com)



Inniswood Metro Gardens  
One of their many containers