

Green Thumb Class List for 2022. Classes with yellow highlighting have on-site and online activities that will take place during the last portion of the class.

Date	Topics- Winter Series	Description
January 10 6-8pm Online only Winter Vegetable Gardening Series	Seed Starting	If you are a new gardener, or just looking for some tips on starting seeds, this lecture will cover it. You will get an electronic copy of a handout on optimal soil temperatures for the germination of many crops. (Speaker Lisa Johnson)
January 24 6-8pm Online only Winter Vegetable Gardening Series	Intro to Vegetable Garden Crops and Specialized Gardening Techniques	We will cover cultural techniques for growing various popular vegetables and will briefly discuss some specialized gardening techniques such as square foot, straw bale and lasagna gardening.
January 31 6-8pm Online only Winter Vegetable Gardening Series	Vegetable Garden Planning and Organic Techniques	Organic and Small Farmer Outreach Specialist Claire Strader (Speaker Claire Strader) will get you ready for vegetable gardening with strategies and tips for advanced gardeners as well as well as newer gardeners. She will talk about timing of crops, spacing, building productive soils, using cover crops, and more. You will leave with at least four electronic copies of handouts full of great information.
February 7 6-8pm Online only Winter Vegetable Gardening Series	Vegetable Diseases	Brian Hudelson, Director of the Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic (https://pddc.wisc.edu/) will speak about common diseases of vegetables and their management. You will get tips and strategies for preventing disease as well and digital copies of a number of fact sheets on various common vegetable diseases.
February 21 6-8pm Online only Winter Vegetable Gardening Series	Composting Techniques for the Vegetable Garden	Composting is a great way to dispose of leftover crop material and turn it into valuable organic matter that you can use later to improve the structure, water-holding capacity and nutrient content of your soil. Basic composting theory, troubleshooting and several methods of composting will be covered.
February 28 6-8pm Online only Winter Vegetable Gardening Series	Cover Crops	Cover crops bring extra nutrients to the soil and help control weeds. Some also attract pollinators, which can help increase your crop yield. Organic and Small Farmer Outreach Specialist Claire Strader will talk about different types of cover crops to use in different situations, as well as when to plant and remove them.
March 7 6-8pm Online only Winter Vegetable Gardening Series	Weed Management in Vegetable Gardens	Learn how to identify various common weeds in the vegetable garden and use their life cycles and other techniques to manage them. Cultural techniques will be stressed, but organic and traditional chemical control products will be briefly discussed as well. (Speaker Lisa Johnson)

March 14 6-8pm Online only Winter Vegetable Gardening Series	Vegetable Insects	Dr. Russ Groves of UW-Madison Wisconsin Vegetable Crop Entomology (https://vegento.russell.wisc.edu/) will review the life cycles common insect pests of a variety of crops and give you techniques to combat them in the garden. You will receive a number of electronic fact sheets on insects covered during the talk.
March 21 6-8pm Online only Winter Vegetable Gardening Series	Seed Saving and Harvesting/Storage	Learn how to successfully harvest and store seeds from a variety of crops. Success is more likely with some crops, and less likely with others. Learn which crops are easiest and most reliable for getting the results you want. We will also cover proper storage of seeds and seed viability testing. (Speaker Lisa Johnson)
Date	Topics- Spring Series	Description
March 9 2022 9:30am-11:30am Dual audience	Plant Anatomy, Plant Taxonomy and Secrets of Scientific Names Activity	Plant anatomy addresses plant structures, how they function and helpful vocabulary for understanding how plants grow. Plant taxonomy explains the mysteries of scientific names, reviews plant naming rules, how plants are organized into families and why that helps us understand their needs. There will be a short game activity (with prizes!) to review the vocabulary.
March 16 2022 9:30am-11:30am Dual audience	Shrub pruning Teaching Garden lab	We will cover proper pruning techniques for different types of deciduous and evergreen shrubs. You will get an electronic copy of a chart covering timing and techniques for pruning many deciduous shrubs that you can use in your own garden. A lab in the Teaching Garden will allow you to practice pruning different types of shrubs.
March 23 2022 9:30am-11:30am Dual audience	Shade and Ornamental Tree Planting and Pruning	Learn how to properly plant trees and provide good after-care. Many trees are not planted properly, and this affects their health and longevity. Learn proper pruning techniques to create a safe and strong structure so your tree remains an asset for many years. We will review the 3-cut method and making decisions on where and what to cut and how much to cut.
March 30 2022 9:30am-11:30am Dual audience	Plant Propagation Activity	We will discuss techniques to propagate plants via seed, cuttings, divisions, offsets, and bulbs. You will receive a chart of techniques to propagate many common houseplants and some perennial garden plants. We will briefly touch on tissue culture and woody plant propagation as well. A propagation activity is included.
April 6 2022 9:30am-11:30am Dual audience	Organic Vegetable Garden Planning & Techniques Q&A with speaker	Organic and Small Farm Outreach Specialist Claire Strader will get you ready for organic vegetable gardening with strategies and tips for advanced as well as newer gardeners. She will cover crop selection, creating in-ground beds, timing of crops, crop spacing, building productive soils, using cover crops, and more. You will leave with at least four electronic handouts full of great information.

April 13 2022 9:30am-11:30am Dual audience	Vegetable Garden Plant Families, Insects, and Diseases Activity	This class reviews common vegetable families and how to grow the crops within them. Crop rotation, best management practices and typical diseases and insects you might encounter will be briefly addressed. A practice session on crop rotation and insect scouting is included.
April 20 2022 9:30am-11:30am Dual audience	Fundamentals of Plant Disease Q&A with speaker	Dr. Brian Hudelson of the Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic will present information about disease-causing organisms (fungi, bacteria, viruses, phytoplasmas and nematodes) and the symptoms they cause, environmental factors that favor disease development, and ways to avoid and manage disease. He will cover plant disorders caused by factors such as nutrient imbalances, pesticides, environmental pollutants and adverse environmental conditions as well.
April 27 2022 9:30am-11:30am Dual audience	Fruit trees	Learn proper planting, pruning and training techniques for several types of fruit trees. The class covers selection, planting, fertilization, watering, staking and some common insects and diseases. You will receive electronic copies of publications from the UW-Madison Dept. Learning Store.
May 4 2022 9:30am-11:30am Dual audience	Soils, Soil Testing and Fertilizers Activity	Good soils are vital to growing healthy plants. This class will review physical and chemical structure of soils, pH, organic matter and techniques for improving the soil you have. We will also cover soil testing and test results. There will be short activities on understanding and selecting fertilizer products (both organic and traditional,) reading labels and calculating application rates as well as interpreting soil test results.
May 18 2022 9:30am-11:30am Dual audience	Growing Strawberries, Raspberries & Blueberries	Learn about planting, fertilizing, pruning and overwintering these three types of fruit crops. Variety recommendations, insect/disease management and some troubleshooting will be included as well. You will receive electronic copies of Learning Store publications as well as learning about other handy online resources. (Speaker Lisa Johnson)
May 25 2022 9:30am-11:30am Dual audience	Introduction to Insects in the Garden Q&A with speaker	Insects are an extremely diverse and critically important group of animals. In this class, PJ Liesch, Director of the UW-Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab will discuss the basic anatomy, physiology, and ecology of these creatures and take a brief look at the main groups of insects. This will help you in identifying insects in your garden, knowing beneficial predator insects from plant-eaters, identifying and supporting pollinators and understanding management techniques. (Speaker PJ Liesch). A lab session in the Teaching Garden will follow.

Date	Topics- Summer Series	Description
June 6 2022 6-8 pm Dual audience	Wildlife in the Garden Q&A with speaker	Learn how to attract desirable wildlife to your yard while discouraging and repelling species that like to feed on your plants. Dr. David Drake of the UW-Madison Wildlife Ecology Department will present an engaging look at wildlife in garden situations and also cover some local research projects and resources on urban wildlife.
June 13 6-8 pm Dual audience	Lawn care Q&A with speaker and Activity	Lawn Care: Dr. Doug Soldat of the UW-Madison Department of Soil Science will discuss various facets of lawn care, including learning about grass species, seed selection and sowing, watering, fertilizing, aerating and mowing. An activity based on selecting grass seed will follow the class.
June 20 6-8 pm Dual audience	Plant Processes and Pesticide Safety Activity	The first talk will focus on processes such as photosynthesis, transpiration and how plant hormones can affect growth and senescence. Learn about IPM (Integrated Pest Management) techniques and using pesticides safely should that step be necessary. We will also cover characteristics of organic, bioactive and traditional pesticides, avoiding weed and insect resistance using IRAC categories to rotate pesticide modes of action, understanding signal words that indicate pesticide toxicity, and more. An activity reading pesticide labels is included.
June 27 6-8 pm Dual audience	Invasive species	This class will mostly consist of invasive plant ID and management by cultural and chemical means. Invasive plant species are non-native, able to out-compete native species in natural ecosystems such as woodlands, and have no natural enemies. This differentiates them from weeds that primarily invade disturbed areas like gardens and roadsides. We will review the DNR NR40 list of restricted and prohibited invasive species for Wisconsin and explain the categories of regulated plants. (Speaker Lisa Johnson)
July 11 6-8 pm Dual audience	Weeds and Weed Management Activity	We will talk about using various techniques to manage weeds in the garden and landscape and spend some time reviewing a rogue's gallery of common weeds, both grassy and broadleaf types. You will get an electronic copy of a handout that walks you through a taxonomic key for identifying grasses as well as other resources. We encourage you to send in photos of weeds from your yard ahead of time. An activity will be included. (Speaker Lisa Johnson)
July 18 6-8 pm Dual audience	Native plants & pollinators Teaching Garden lab	This session will focus on groups of insect pollinators and how you can attract and support them by growing various native and nativar plants. We will also cover a number of recommended native plants for sun and

		shade and their growth and maintenance needs. A lab in the Teaching Garden will be included. (Speaker Lisa Johnson)
July 25 6-8 pm Dual audience	Disease Management in the Garden Teaching Garden lab	Growing Healthy Plants: Basics In Plant Disease Management Brian Hudelson of the Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic will present information on common methods for disease control, their pros and cons, and how you can adapt these techniques for use in your own home garden. (Speaker Brian Hudelson). A lab session in the Teaching Garden will follow. Note that this class may run late due to the activity.
August 1 6-8 pm Dual audience	Perennials for Shade Teaching Garden lab	Learn about how to select shade perennials for your garden as well as general care, propagation and maintenance. Find out about herbaceous perennial plants (native and non-native) that will thrive in light, medium and deep shade. We will also discuss plants that tolerate dry shade and wet shade. A lab in the Teaching Garden will follow the class. (Speaker Lisa Johnson)
August 8 6-8 pm Dual audience	Perennials for Sun Teaching Garden lab	Learn about how to select perennials for your garden as well as general care, propagation and maintenance. We will discuss a wide variety of native and non-native species that will do well in full, hot sun in dry areas all the way to half-sun locations. A lab in the Teaching Garden will follow the class. (Speaker Lisa Johnson)
August 15 6-8 pm Dual audience	Garden Design Activity	This session will feature principles of garden design, use of color, tips to think about and a design activity. Participants are encouraged to submit photos of landscapes they want to design at by 3 weeks ahead of the class, and a limited number will be featured in the session.
August 22 6-8 pm Dual audience	Annuals Teaching Garden lab	Learn about growing healthy annuals for pots, windowboxes and bedding situations. We will cover species characteristics and selection, siting, growing in containers vs bedding situations, watering, and fertilizing. We will also address designing with annuals in-ground and in containers. A lab in the Teaching Garden will be included. (Speaker Lisa Johnson, TBA speaker)