



Durham Master Gardeners

Presentation Library – 2026

All presentations are now available as webinars with time for a Q & A period. In the interests of staying 'green', audience handouts are provided on the Durham Master Gardeners website.

www.durhammastergardeners.ca

Our presentations are categorized by broader 'areas of interest.'

THE BASICS

How to Plan a Successful Garden

This presentation on planning a successful garden covers: evaluating site conditions, other factors such as maintenance, function and style and finally planning your garden space and selecting plants.

Preparing Your Garden for Spring

Spring is a time of renewal in the garden and this talk provides information on getting your garden ready for the new growing season. Topics covered include spring clean-up, lawn care, creating healthy soil, insect and weed control, planting and mulches.

Getting Your Garden Ready for Winter

A presentation about getting your garden ready for winter, what to clean up, what to leave, how to deal with annuals, perennials, bulbs, evergreens, ornamental grasses, roses, shrubs, trees and lawns.

Soil: It all Begins Here

Soil is one of our most important resources and yet many of us know very little about it. This presentation will provide an introduction to soil, what it is, the different soil textures, the soil food web and how to create healthy soil. This presentation includes a section on backyard composting and the importance of compost in your garden.

Perennials

In this presentation, we focus on perennial plants used in a permanent garden. Topics covered include the ideal conditions for various plants, the many colours and sizes available in both flowers and foliage. We also cover the where and when of planting, pruning, adding or removing to make your perennial garden beds a thing of wonder.

VEGETABLE GARDENING / SEEDS / HERBS

Introduction to Vegetable Gardening

This presentation will cover the why, where and how of growing your own vegetables, including a

breakdown of cool and warm season crops, small space gardening and companion planting to maximize your harvest.

Vegetable Gardening in Containers

A lack of space for a vegetable garden doesn't mean you can't grow your own vegetables. In this presentation, we give you lots of great information about growing vegetables in containers, and show you how from early spring to late fall you can successfully grow and harvest fresh food.

Square Foot Gardening

Discover the Square Foot Gardening method that allows you to grow more vegetables, herbs and flowers in less space. This talk will explain the principles of Square Foot Gardening and describe the steps to completing your own garden bed. Other complimentary gardening techniques such as vertical gardening, succession planting and companion planting are touched upon in order to help provide additional tips and techniques for a successful harvest.

Starting Plants from Seed

In this presentation, we will provide the home gardener with the right knowledge and skills to make them successful at starting seeds at home for planting in the spring. Topics covered include proper storage of seeds, when to start seeds, germination requirements, lighting, thinning and transplanting, fertilizing and hardening off.

Seed Saving

This presentation will provide you with the information and inspiration to begin collecting and storing your own seeds.

Herbs in Your Garden

This presentation highlights best practices for successfully growing culinary herbs in your garden, whether it be in containers or in your garden bed. Tips for harvesting, methods of preserving and other culinary uses are also discussed.

HOT TOPICS

Gardening for Climate Change

Climate change is a new reality. What can we do to protect ourselves and combat climate change in gardening?

Gardening for Pollinators

In this presentation, we focus on some of our important native pollinators and the gardening practices that we can all implement in our gardens to help our native pollinators survive and thrive in the face of habitat loss and other threats.

Pollinator Gardening for Children

An introduction to gardening to attract pollinators specifically aimed at children.

What Can Gardeners do in the Winter?

For people who can't wait for spring, this presentation explores a range of activities gardeners can pursue in the winter including planning and preparing for spring, winter garden art projects, indoor plants and starting seeds.

Gardening in a New Subdivision: What to do and what to avoid

Gardening in a new subdivision presents a homeowner with a mix of standard gardening situations with some additional challenges. Learn what to do and what not to do in key areas.
a) Designing, planning, implementing b) Soil, sun, water c) Plantings – the what, where and

how for trees, shrubs, perennials d) Trending outside the box ideas – no mow lawn, square foot gardening, containers, native plant and pollinator gardens.

Creating Winter Interest in Your Garden

This presentation is a design primer on making your garden look great in all seasons. It provides basic landscape design themes with examples of how you can apply them to your garden. The latter part of the presentation highlights specific plants and trees to use for winter interest.

SPECIAL INTERESTS

Edible Flowers

Not all flowers are safe to eat, but those that are can offer a unique burst of flavour and colour to many dishes. Join us to learn which flowers are safe to eat and best practices for growing and harvesting.

Bulbs: Jewels in the Garden

Discover the vibrant world of bulbs and how they can transform your garden with three season colour and interest. From springtime blooms to fall surprises, we'll explore the diverse types of bulbs (including true bulbs, tubers, tuberous roots, and rhizomes). Gain practical tips for selecting, planting, and caring for bulbs, along with strategies for keeping pests at bay. Join us as we showcase some of our seasonal favorites, sure to inspire and bring life to your garden across the seasons.

Container Gardening/Balcony Gardening

This presentation covers all of the key ingredients for successfully gardening in containers. The topics covered include containers, the right soil, and how to select the right plants based on colour, texture, scale and shape.

Rain Gardens

Learn how and why water runoff has become a serious threat to our environment and what you can do to help offset the problem on your own property. Learn the basic principles of creating a rain garden and how a rain garden works, plus plants to choose to make your rain garden successful.

Hydrangeas

This presentation provides an understanding of the different types of hydrangeas, their care and pruning requirements. It covers how to create pink or blue flowers for hydrangea macrophylla, as well as information on potential pests, how to dry blooms for indoor use and information on new varieties on the market.

Shrubs for All Seasons

The focus of this talk is using shrubs in your landscape for colour and seasonal interest, including a brief overview of design. A selection of flowering shrubs and shrubs with colourful foliage or woody stems will be discussed, along with the newest offerings available for planting in this area.

In Person Workshops

Workshops are typically 1 to 2 hours in length.

NOTE: Workshops contain a PowerPoint presentation component along with a hands-on activity with the participants. Direct communication with the presenter(s) is needed to ensure all materials are acquired for a successful event.

Balcony Gardening Workshop

This workshop will provide participants with the necessary knowledge to successfully grow flowers and vegetables in containers. Topics covered include starting plants from seed, selecting containers, soils and potting mixes, what to grow, design and site considerations, and companion planting.

Pollinators Workshop

This 2-hour workshop focuses on pollinators, why they are important, what they are and the threats to them. We cover good gardening practices for pollinators and the use of native plants to create pollinator and bird friendly habitats in our gardens. Hands on activities include building a mason bee house and planting native seeds in peat pots.

Seed Saving Workshop

This workshop will give participants the skills and confidence to start saving their own seeds. Topics covered include what are seeds, selecting seeds to save, how to store seeds and how to check for viability. The activities include identifying and gathering seeds from a nearby park or garden, sorting and preparing seeds for storage.

Introduction to Vegetable Gardening Workshop

This two-hour workshop will start with an introduction to soil, what it is, how to test it and how to amend it. Then we will cover the vegetable garden design and layout, siting and exposure, starting vegetables from seed, selecting what vegetables to grow and companion planting. The hands-on activities include soil texture tests, planting seeds in peat pots or germinating in plastic bags, as well as a square foot gardening demonstration.

Winter Sowing

A presentation and workshop combined, designed to educate people on the benefits of winter sowing. We will also do a hands-on activity where all participants will have an opportunity to plant seeds in containers to be left outside. This presentation/workshop is usually done in the colder months (Dec/Jan/Feb). Materials will be provided by the participants and the booking organization.

FEE SCHEDULE

Webinar (45-minute presentation and a 15-minute Q & A) \$150.00

In Person Presentation (45-minute presentation and a 15-minute Q & A) \$150.00

In Person Presentation with a demonstration (done by presenter)
(45-minute presentation and a 15-minute Q & A if time permits)

\$150.00

In Person Workshop (participants involvement)

First hour will be \$150.00 then \$50.00 per
1/2 hour afterwards

Materials can be purchased by the host
organization – if purchased by the
presenter(s), additional costs will apply

Mileage \$0.50 per kilometre from the
presenter's home to the venue and return