

Greener Landscapes: How to Create a Healthier, Low Maintenance Yard & Garden

Learn landscaping practices that will improve the health and appearance of your lawn and garden, while protecting and preserving our natural resources. Save time and money by landscaping with plants that require less care and by eliminating unnecessary water and chemical use.

Ask a Master Gardener

These are year round clinics held at farmer's markets, garden centers, community events and other venues that give consumers an opportunity to consult with our expert Master Gardener volunteers for horticultural advice and timely gardening tips. Can be set up as a booth or Q&A panel.

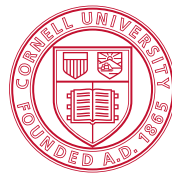
Speakers' Bureau



Many of our Master Gardeners have taught the following topics. Please call Donna for availability:

- Planning and Planting an Herb Garden
- Landscape Design for the New Homeowner
- Growing Roses
- Pruning Trees and Shrubs
- Herbs and their Uses
- Gardening with Children
- Xeriscape Gardening
- Shade Gardening
- Taking the Mystery out of Growing Orchids
- The Art of Bonsai
- Starting Plants from Seed
- Decorating with Houseplants
- Making New Plants through Propagation
- How to Start a Community Garden
- How to Start a School Garden & Keep it Growing
- Eco-Friendly Landscaping

Most of the topics listed may be tailored to fit the needs of your group.



Cornell University Cooperative Extension Rockland County

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Building Strong & Vibrant Communities in New York State

Looking for a speaker for your club, community group or organization?



Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland County Speakers' Bureau has lively and informative presentations that are specifically designed to meet the needs of our county.

Master Gardener volunteers and Extension Educators are available upon request to speak to your group. Dedicated to serving the community, the Master Gardener volunteers are involved in many aspects of educational outreach year round and are trained to provide accurate and timely information on a variety of gardening topics and environmental issues.

Speakers' Bureau presentations are booked on a first-come, first-served, basis. To request a speaker, complete and sign the enclosed Speakers' Bureau Request/Confirmation Form and return it to Donna Alese Cooke at least four weeks before the desired date. When your event is confirmed, you will be contacted by Cornell Cooperative Extension. Your group should include a minimum of 10 people. There is a fee of \$75.00 per presentation. For more than one presentation on the same day at the same location: \$150 for two presentations, \$200 for three presentations. Most presentations are approximately 45 minutes to one hour with time for Q&A afterwards.

Cornell Cooperative Extension actively supports equal educational and employment opportunities. Please contact the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland County office if you have any special needs.



What is Cornell Cooperative Extension?

Do you know what Cornell Cooperative Extension is? As your link to Cornell University, Cooperative Extension enables people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to

work. Learn about its many community education programs and volunteer opportunities as an organization that has been a vital part of the Rockland community since 1917. *(May also be combined with a Q&A session on gardening and yard care; 20-30 minutes; free)*

Growing & Caring for Indoor Plants All Year Long

Extend your gardening season by growing orchids and tropical plants indoors, all year round. Learn which plants grow best in your home environment, when to fertilize, divide, re-pot and how to keep insects and diseases under control.

Planning and Planting a Garden from Scratch

You can create the garden of your dreams; it's easier than you think! Whether you live in a condo or a home, you can start a garden that delivers fresh, home-grown vegetables, welcomes butterflies and hummingbirds, and provides color all year long. This class provides inspirational tips and techniques on starting a garden, site and soil preparation, garden design, plant selection and year-round maintenance.

Growing Annuals & Perennials

Learn how to effectively use annuals and perennials in your landscape while maintaining healthy long-lasting bloom all season long.

Getting the Lawn and Garden Ready for Spring

Learn how to prepare your lawn and garden for the coming spring and summer months. Timely tips on spring clean-up, when and how to fertilize, plant and care for your lawn and garden all season long.

Gardening in Containers

Presentation highlights include valuable tips and easy techniques for growing annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables, orchids and tropical plants in containers. Our expert Master Gardener volunteers will demonstrate various types of container gardens that are perfect for small outdoor spaces such as patios, decks, and front entryways.

Create a Backyard Habitat: Attracting Birds, Butterflies & Beneficial Insects

There's a certain beauty to having wildlife visit your yard and garden! Learn about the ecosystems that exist in your own backyard and how to plant and garden to foster the varieties of life found there.

Speakers' Bureau

Ornamental Grasses in the Landscape

Looking for affordable, low-maintenance landscape plants that will provide year round interest? Ornamental grasses are the answer! Gorgeous any time of year, ornamental grasses come in all colors, shapes and sizes, are virtually maintenance and pest free, and will withstand all weather conditions, including extreme drought.

Gardening for Winter & Year Round Interest

Design a four-season garden, using low maintenance plants, trees and shrubs that not only have interesting texture and form, they'll provide long-lasting color even through the cold, snowy winter months.

Gardening with Native Plants

Learn the benefits of native plants and how to incorporate these beauties into your garden and landscape. Not only do they flourish with minimal care and little watering, native plants will grace the garden with spring and fall color, flowers and berries, attracting local birds and butterflies. An array of native beauties that are suitable in all conditions, are just waiting for the opportunity to show their worth!

Putting the Lawn & Garden to Bed for Winter

Learn how to prepare your yard, garden, and even your tools for the upcoming winter months. Timely tips on what you can do now to enjoy beautiful results in the garden next spring.

How to Create a Rain Barrel

Did you know that one inch of rain falling on an average-sized rooftop over a 24-hour period adds up to 700 gallons of rainwater? By placing a rain barrel underneath a gutter downspout, rainwater can be collected and recycled to water plants and gardens. Master Gardeners will explain the different rain barrels available and how to easily create your own.

The Floral Arranger's Garden

Learn how to design a cutting garden and how to grow, harvest and condition beautiful flowers and plant material from your own yard. This presentation can either be a seminar or hands-on workshop in which students create a fresh or dried floral arrangement to take home. Materials fee will apply for a hands-on workshop.

Living Sculpture Workshop

Various living sculpture and topiaries are demonstrated, and each participant will make and take home a living topiary. An additional materials fee required.

Everlasting Floral Design Workshop

Students learn how to create wreaths, arrangements and other floral designs using dried and everlasting flowers and plant materials. Each participant will make an everlasting design to take home. Additional materials fee is required.

Organic Vegetable Gardening & Growing Vegetables all Year Round

Learn from our expert Master Gardeners, how to maximize the space you have, and organically grow vegetables and fruit all year long!

Sustainable Gardening

Sustainable gardening enables us to create an attractive landscape while utilizing the space for optimum results, through soil and water conservation, plant selection and health care, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Learn how low-impact landscapes and gardens are designed to suit their unique environment with minimal input of water and harmful fertilizers and pesticides.

Growing Crops in Pots and Containers

Thinking about starting a vegetable garden this year? Don't have a backyard to call your own? Many vegetables varieties can easily be grown in pots and containers, right on a patio or deck. Learn how to optimize the space you have, no matter how small, and grow a garden full of fresh vegetables this year.

Backyard Composting

Learn how to reduce household waste by composting kitchen scraps and yard waste to create "Gardener's Gold." All your composting questions will be answered, including what can and can't be composted, types of bins and how to set them up, soil health and maintenance, the benefits and uses of finished compost and how to avoid problems.

Vermiculture: Composting with Worms

Looking to reduce the amount of organic waste you send to your community landfill? Have limited space? Learn how vermiculture – worm composting, can turn organic waste into nutrient rich soil enhancer.

Lawn Care for all Seasons

Learn that less is more when it comes to growing a lush, healthy lawn. Based upon research direct from Cornell University turf experts, this seminar will teach you the latest methods of fertilization, weed and insect prevention, as well as how to renovate or revitalize an unhealthy, tired-looking lawn.

For more information, contact Donna Alese Cooke at (845) 429-7085 ext. 108.