

Gardening Fundamentals

Guest Instructor: Robert Pavlis

Below is a rough outline of what will be covered in this series of 6 lectures.

Soil

Week 1 –This course will help you understand soil from a plants point of view. It will then show you how to improve your soil so that your plants are healthier by covering the following topics.

- Preparing beds
- Understanding soil
- Importance of micro-organisms
- Mulching
- Improving soil
- Myths about soil
- Maintaining a healthy garden

Vegetables

Week 2 – Homegrown vegetables have a flavor unmatched by those you buy. This course will show you how to make even a small garden productive and delicious.

- Extending the seasons
- Planning a garden
- Maximizing yield
- Using vertical space
- Harvesting
- Selecting the best varieties

Perennials

Week 3 – Take the mystery out of perennials by understanding the plants. This course will show you how to grow great perennial gardens that flower all season long.

- Buying healthy plants
- Planting and dividing
- Understanding growing conditions
- Maximizing flower production
- Review of best perennials for sun
- Review of the best perennials for shade

Trees and Shrubs

Week 4 – Trees and shrubs are a long term investment that increases the value of your home. This course will show you how to select, plant and maintain the right ones for your home.

- Selecting the right sized plant
- Planting correctly
- Pruning
- Review of best evergreens
- Review of best small trees
- Review of best shrubs

Bulbs and Ornamental Grasses

Week 5 – Spring bulbs start your garden off early in the year, and ornamental grasses make a garden enjoyable in fall and winter.

This course will show you how to use these important landscape plants to extend the show in your garden.

- Understanding bulbs (including corms and tubers)
- Planting and care of bulbs
- Selecting the best bulbs
- Growing ornamental grasses
- Designing with ornamental grasses

Pests and Garden Myths

Week 6 – If you garden you will have pests and diseases. This course will show you how to reduce potential problems and how to deal with a problem once you have it.

- Creating a healthy garden
- Dealing with pests and diseases
- Learning to let nature solve your problems
- Garden myths