

GARDENING SCHOOL

NGC Gardening School, Inc. (NGC) Courses are designed to provide educational information to those especially interested in gardening, horticulture and related subjects.

The School consists of a series of four courses, scheduled usually for two days of instruction, followed by a general examination. Courses cover all aspects of growing, from understanding soil structure, plant identification, pruning techniques, and more. Topics include basic botany, soils, growing annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, fruits and vegetables, lawns, plant pests and diseases, plant classification and selected subjects of local interest.

Additional topics and areas of interest that may be covered are subjects such as Reconciliation Ecology (the science of inventing, establishing, and maintaining new habitats in places where people live, work and play) and creating backyard habitats to help endangered species such as pollinators and amphibians.

Gardening School courses are open to everyone, regardless of NGC membership. NGC members wishing to apply to be NGC Gardening Consultants must attend all four courses and pass the exams. These four courses must be completed within seven years. After passing two courses, a student may become a Provisional Consultant and join a Gardening Consultants Council. Non-members fulfilling the above requirements may apply to be Consultants upon joining an NGC affiliated club within one calendar year of the completion date of the 4th course.

To remain in Good Standing, Gardening Consultants must continue their education by attending a Gardening School Refresher or a Gardening School course within five years—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.

Mary Jo Schlomann
GCFP Gardening School Chairman
mrsrags11@gmail.com