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Notes from editor (not for publication):

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HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

#####BEGIN HED#####

1 Applications being accepted for 2026 UVM Master
2 Gardener courses

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5 TEXT BODY:

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6 The University of Vermont (UVM) Extension is offering its
7 signature Extension Master Gardener (EMG) program in the new
8 year. The 16-week online course starts Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, and
9 runs through May 15, 2026.

10 It provides new and seasoned gardeners with research-
based information on core horticulture topics including soil

11 fertility, botany, pest management, pollinator plants, tree care,
12 and vegetable and fruit growing.

13 The course offers two tracks to suit student goals: Track 1
14 is for participants who have lived in Vermont for more than one
15 year and would like to become a Certified Extension Master
16 Gardener volunteer. EMG volunteers play critical roles in helping
17 fellow Vermonters learn about sustainable gardening practices
18 through local community education.

19 Track 1 students meet with course instructors weekly via
20 Zoom on Thursdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. from Jan. 29 to May 14.
21 Upon completion of the course, they commit to a 40-hour
22 internship.

23 Track 2 is the at-your-own-pace option for those outside
24 Vermont, not seeking certification, or those new to Vermont. This
25 option allows learners to complete course content on their own
26 schedule.

27 All successful course graduates receive a Home
28 Horticulture Certificate of Completion that supports both
29 personal and professional development.

30 By offering the course fully online, UVM Extension
31 makes high-quality horticulture education accessible to people
32 across the state and beyond, regardless of geography or mobility
33 constraints. This format also supports UVM's sustainability goals;
34 the online delivery reduces carbon emissions by an estimated
35 12.29 metric tons per course cycle.

36 The registration fee is \$400 for Vermonters and \$550 for
37 out-of-state participants, due by Friday, Jan. 16, 2026. For details
38 about the course and to register, visit go.uvm.edu/emgcourse.

39 The required course text is not included in the fee and is
40 available for purchase at go.uvm.edu/emgmanual or through
41 select public libraries across the state. Financial support is
42 available through VSAC and AmeriCorps.

43 To request a disability-related accommodation to
44 participate in this course, contact Deb Heleba at
45 debra.heleba@uvm.edu or 802-656-1777 by Tuesday, Dec. 16.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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