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—Dateline.....
—Article Number:.....42660

Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

- 1 Applications being accepted for 2026 UVM Master
- 2 Gardener courses

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- 4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

- 5 The University of Vermont (UVM) Extension is offering its
- 6 signature Extension Master Gardener (EMG) program in the new
- 7 year. The 16-week online course starts Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, and
- 8 runs through May 15, 2026.
- 9 It provides new and seasoned gardeners with research-
- 10 based information on core horticulture topics including soil

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in this course, contact Deb Heleba at 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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