



Course Name: Fundamentals of Organic Land Care (Seneca College) Organic Master Gardener (Gaia College) Organic Horticulture Specialist (Royal Roads University)	Course Hours: 42 Credit Value: 3 Delivery Format: Online or Blended
Applicable Programs: Diploma in Organic Land Care, Gaia College, Royal Roads University Organic Land Care Fundamentals – Level 1, Seneca College	Prerequisites: none Co-requisites: none
Contribution to Program: Core	Approval Date: June 2016

COURSE DESCRIPTION

You can become a better gardener, whether you are a professional or just learning. The science and practice of organic horticulture will be introduced, facilitating a profound shift in ecological awareness. You will come to understand the concepts of landscape health management as opposed to pest management, building a holistic decision making framework for creating and maintaining vibrantly healthy gardens and landscapes, including turf.

This course prepares you to write the SOUL Accreditation exam for the organic land care practitioner credential, which you have to apply for separately. It also partially satisfies the certificate requirements for the Organic Land Care Fundamentals program at Seneca College. Continuing Education Credits can also be earned to maintain industry certifications (ISA, CNLA, BCSLA, SOUL).

COURSE CURRICULUM

I. Course Learning Requirements/Embedded Knowledge and Skills

Course Learning Requirements	Knowledge and Skills
When you have earned credit for this course you will have demonstrated an ability to:	
1. Define what organic means within the context of a new decision making framework for urban horticultural practices.	1.1. Recognize the intelligence and interconnectedness all living organisms in their environment. 1.2 Recognize the ecological role of plants. 1.3. Define valid organic standards. 1.4. Develop respect for the complexity of designing and constructing healthy functioning ecosystems in our everyday landscapes.

<p>2. Using the science of botany, describe basic plant anatomy, development and physiology, plant processes and horticultural applications.</p>	<p>2.1. Comprehend the significance of how plants eat, breathe and eliminate 2.2. Comprehend the significance of how plants relate to their environment 2.3. Examine systems of plant classification 2.4. Recognize the complexities of soil biology 2.5. Define Soil-Food-Web 2.6. Examine soil qualities, nutrient content and determine needs.</p>
<p>3. Explore the soil ecosystem by examining the pros and cons of various soil management practices.</p>	<p>3.1. Define soil management and the relationships responsible for plant health including fertilizers. 3.2. Support biological processes by recognizing why and how to increase soil biodiversity. 3.3. List methods for feeding soil microorganisms that support necessary biological processes.</p>
<p>4. Recognize the difference between a “symptoms management” approach compared with creating and managing ecosystems that attract and retain water.</p>	<p>4.1. Define effective irrigation methods. 4.2. Analyze water wise garden styles 4.3. Define principles and practices of permaculture 4.4. Recognize a water wise garden design. 4.5. Observe organic garden bed installation methods 4.6. Plant plants properly. 4.7. Recognize turf lawn needs and care.</p>
<p>5. Recognize the differences between "Pest and Disease Management" and "Health Management"</p>	<p>5.1. Define the science of arboriculture and how it relates to pruning 5.2. Define organic landscape health management principles.</p>

II. Learning Resources

All materials available online.

III. Teaching/Learning Methods

During this course you are likely to experience:

- assigned readings
- online video presentations
- discussion questions
- video demonstrations
- critiques
- peer feedback
- individual projects
- research
- summarizing course activities

IV. Learning Activities and Assessment

Samples of learning activities include:

- practical assignment work
- open book tests with feedback
- written assignments
- discussion forums

V. Evaluation/Earning Credit

The following will provide evidence of your learning achievement :

#	Assessment	%															
required	Type	worth	Lessons:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3	written assignments	15	45 marks					15		15				15			
5	participation discussions	3	15 marks	2	4						3	3					3
8	5 open book tests online	5	40 marks		5	5	5		5				5		5	5	5
	TOTAL MARKS =		100 marks														

A passing grade in this course requires a total of 100% for all tests (multiple attempts are encouraged) and a minimum of 75% for each of the written assignments and a minimum of 75% for the discussion participation. A certificate of completion will be awarded when the minimum passing grade has been achieved. Below passing grade constitutes a failing grade (F).