

2025-2026 Master Gardener Volunteer Training

Training will begin the week of October 1, 2025 and run through March 2026, with scheduled breaks for holidays. The program will include weekly self-paced online coursework, live zoom sessions, and in-person classes. Below is the schedule for live zoom classes (held Wednesdays 6-8 pm) and the in-person classes. Presentation, topics, and locations may be subject to change based on the availability of presenters. More details will be shared as closer to the program dates.

In-Person: (Up to two excused absences permitted with approval)

- 10/4/2025: **Welcome & Orientation** (9:00 am to 12:00 pm)
Clark Sports Center Community Room, 124 Co Rd. 52, Cooperstown, NY 13326
Orientation to the Master Gardener Volunteer Program, learn about local programs, meet current Master Gardener Volunteers.
- 10/18/2025: **Soil Testing, Garden Tour & Seed Saving** (9:00 am to 12:00 pm)
CCE Otsego Office, 12 Lake Street, Cooperstown, NY 13326
Hands-on lesson covering soil pH, textures, nutrients, submitting a soil sample and interpreting the results. Tour the CCE demonstration garden with topics covering seed saving and regenerative gardening practices.
- 11/1/2025: **Plant Pathology, Hydroponics & Garden Center Tour** (10:00 am to 2:00 pm)
SUNY Cobleskill, 106 Suffolk Circle, Cobleskill
Kelley's Farm & Garden Center, 239 W Main Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043
SUNY Cobleskill professors to cover plant pathology, hydroponics with tours of facilities. Tour of Kelley's Farm & Garden Center. Lunch available at SUNY Cobleskill Cafeteria with tour of microgreen cabinet (\$12 per person for lunch).
- 11/14/2025: **Clark Greenhouse & Mohican Farm Compost Tours:** (9:00 am to 12:00 pm)
Clark Greenhouse, Farleigh Ave, Cooperstown & Mohican Farm, Route 80, Cooperstown
Special tour of Clark Foundation Greenhouses a community pre-consumer and postconsumer food waste composting facility at Mohican Farm.
- 11/22/2025: **County Specific Meetings** (Time TBD by County)
Otsego, Schoharie, Herkimer Counties
Session coordinated by each County Association. Learn about local programs and projects specific to each county.
- 2/7/2026 **Seed Starting & Seed Swap** (9:00 am to 12:00 pm)
CCE Schoharie Office, 173 S. Grand Street, Cobleskill, NY
Master Gardener Volunteers will lead a hand on and comprehensive workshop on starting seeds. Participants are welcome to bring seeds to swap.
- 3/14/2025 **Fruit Pruning Workshop & Graduation Celebration (11:30-2)**
Middlefield Orchard, 2274 NY-166, Cooperstown, NY 13326
Hands-on workshop on apple and berry pruning followed by a graduation celebration.
- 9/5/2025

Zoom Presenters: (Wednesdays 6-8 pm)

10/1/2025	Online Course Overview, Navigating Cornell Website/ Factsheets <i>Donna Cooke, CCE Specialist; Garett Livermore, CCE Herkimer County Executive Director; Marcie Foster, CCE Otsego Horticulture and Natural Resource Educator</i>
10/8/2025	Q & A on Moodle and Presentation on Action Projects <i>Donna Cooke, CCE Specialist</i> <i>Marcie Foster, CCE Otsego Horticulture and Natural Resources Educator</i>
10/15/2025	Soil Health <i>Garett Livermore, CCE Herkimer Executive Director</i>
10/22/2025	Weed ID & Control <i>Erik Smith, CCE Area Field Crop Specialist/Team Leader</i>
10/29/2025	Garden for Resilience: Vegetables, Food Preservation, Seed to Supper <i>Garett Livermore, CCE Herkimer Executive Director; Theresa Kaya, Schoharie Master Gardener Volunteer; Marcie Foster, CCE Horticulture and Natural Resources Educator</i>
11/5/2025	Pesticides and Reading Labels <i>Dan Wixten, CCE Pesticide Safety Educator</i>
11/12/2025	IPM Around the House <i>Joellen Lampman, CCE Tick and School IPM Coordinator</i>
11/19/2025	Birds, Butterflies, Bees and Beauty: Why Choose Native Plants <i>Celia Oxley, Otsego Master Gardener Volunteer</i>
12/3/2025	Lawn Care Without Pesticides <i>David Chinery, CCE Horticulture Turf Management Sr. Resource Educator</i>
12/10/2025	Tree Presentation <i>Fred Breglia, Landis Arboretum</i>
1/7/2026	TBD
1/14/2026	Composting, Soil Amendments, Fertilizers <i>Garett Livermore, CCE Herkimer Executive Director</i>
1/21/2026	Invasive Species Resources and Tools <i>TBD</i>
1/28/2026	Youth Development and Community Gardens <i>Donna Cooke, CCE Specialist</i>
2/4/2026	Gardening in a Warming World <i>(Ashley)</i>
2/11/2026	Permaculture & Edible Landscapes <i>TBD</i>
2/25/2026	Agroforestry and Woodlot Management <i>Brett Chedzoy, CCE Senior Resource Educator Agriculture & Natural Resources</i> <i>Peter Smallidge, CCE State Extension Forester</i>
3/4/2026	Let's Talk about Ticks <i>Garett Livermore, CCE Herkimer Executive Director</i>
3/11/2026	Large and Small Fruits <i>TBD</i>

9/5/2025