



Speakers' Bureau 2026

Cornell Cooperative Extension-Broome County and Cutler Botanic Garden offers speakers on a variety of topics on a time-available basis at your club or group meeting location or online via Zoom. **Please schedule at least six weeks in advance.** These presentations, given by CCE Educators or seasoned Master Gardener Volunteers, vary from 30 minutes to one hour in length, but can be adapted to suit the audience. These are Power Point presentations so a suitable venue is required. Speakers Bureau presentations are \$25 per topic for a groups of 50 or less. \$50 for groups of 50 or more. Checks can be made payable to: CCE-BC. Proceeds support Cutler Botanic Garden. Please e-mail Linda Svoboda at lis322@cornell.edu (preferred) or call 584-5016 for more information. Please provide specific dates and times for the programs of interest in your request.

Please note, in person programs presented by CCE Broome County staff are restricted to Broome County venues. MGVs may choose to present outside of Broome County.

Garden as Though Life Depends on It - 'The Importance of Going Native'

Learn how important native plant species are for the ecology of our land, from the farm to the small urban landscape. Learn about native alternatives to some of the most widely used ornamental landscaping plants now considered to be invasive species.

By Master Gardener Volunteers, Sarah Hodder, Karen Anderson

All About Bluebirds and More

Learn the history of the Bluebird, nesting, and the importance of monitoring. Learn their habitat requirements and about types of trees and shrubs that are attractive to them.

By Master Gardener Volunteers, Sarah Hodder, Karen Anderson

Gardening **IS for the Birds**

Explore the importance of using native plants and providing the basic needs for birds. This program provides information on how to garden for birds along with examples of specific flowers, shrubs, and trees that work well in our area and are helpful for our indigenous bird species.

By Master Gardener Volunteers, Sarah Hodder, Karen Anderson

Indoor Seed Starting

Learn all you need to know to start your own garden vegetable or flower plants from seed indoors. Seed starting mixes, lighting needs and after-care of seedlings will be explained.

By Master Gardener Volunteer, Jim Dunn

Season Extension for Vegetables

You can easily add 2 weeks to the start and end of the growing season by the use of low tunnels, frost blankets and learning what crops can be grown in the early spring and late fall in our area.

By Master Gardener Volunteer, Jim Dunn

***Planning the Vegetable Garden**

Getting from seed catalog dreams to a successful harvest requires a well thought out plan. Learn what you need to consider and resources available to help you achieve a successful gardening season.

By MGVs Susan Kost and Lora Allen

Herbs

A variety of programs can be tailored to your group's interest – from culinary to medicinal herbs and how to grow, preserve and use them. Connect with the speaker to choose a particular topic.

By Master Gardener Volunteer, Elaine Gregory

Rock Garden Design

Whether you call them rock gardens, rockeries, or gravel gardens these landscape features are a popular way to create an interesting environment while encouraging biodiversity and sustainability in a warming world. Learn about the advantages of these gardens and the plants that thrive in them.

By Master Gardener Volunteer, Elaine Gregory

Pollinator Pathway - Broome County (new for 2026!)

The goal of the Broome County Pollinator Pathway project is to work as a community to provide habitats for our native pollinators here in Broome County (and beyond). Learn the basic steps of inclusion in the Pollinator Pathway and how you can make a difference by providing safe habitat for pollinators and other beneficial insects. Any size garden can become an oasis.

By Master Gardener Volunteer, Erin Gordon

The following are for Broome County in-person venues only (via Zoom outside of Broome County is possible)

Beneficial Insects and How to Attract Them

Predators, parasitoids and pollinators, oh my! Learn about a variety of “good bugs” that serve as natural enemies to plant pests and are important to the ecosystem plus the types of plants you can grow to attract and keep them in your yard.

By CCE Program Educator, Linda Svoboda

Weed Identification and Management

Learn identification strategies and management tactics to help control weeds in your landscapes.

By CCE Program Educator, Linda Svoboda

Rainscaping: Gardening for Water Quality

We all belong to a watershed and preserving water quality is everyone's responsibility. Learn about some simple green infrastructure projects that you can add to your landscape to reduce storm water run-off and enhance the value and beauty of your yard. Rain gardens, rainwater collection basics and more.

By CCE Program Educator, Linda Svoboda

Conifers

All about the needled evergreens common in our region. Biology and identification strategies are covered.

By CCE Program Educator, Linda Svoboda

Spotted Lanternfly in NY

Learn about Spotted Lanternfly biology and identification, its presence in NYS, the recent discovery of a population in Broome County and what you can do to help monitor for and report this new invasive insect pest and one of its favorite host plants Tree-of-Heaven.

By CCE Program Educator, Linda Svoboda

Growing Great Garlic

Learn all you need to know about planting, growing and harvesting a great hard neck garlic crop.

By CCE Program Educator, Linda Svoboda

Pruning of Trees and Shrubs in the Landscape

Learn the How, When, Why and Where about the proper pruning of common woody landscape plants, cuts to make and tools to use.

By CCE Program Educator, Linda Svoboda

The History of Cutler Botanic Garden

Learn how Cutler Botanic Garden got its start and the many changes made throughout its 40 + year history.

By CCE Program Educator, Linda Svoboda

Common Diseases in the Food Garden

Learn to recognize and manage common diseases in vegetables and fruit and some useful resources that can help. By CCE Program Educator, Linda Svoboda

Cool Season Greens

There are a wide variety of salad greens available to add to your spring or fall vegetable garden. Learn about a vast array of edible greens and how to grow, harvest and enjoy them.

By CCE Program Educator, Linda Svoboda

***Watering Your Landscape**

How much water do your plants actually need? Learn to determine if you are watering enough and the best ways to deliver that water to your gardens.

By CCE Program Educator, Linda Svoboda

***Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – A Decision Making Process**

IPM is a decision-making process for managing pests using a combination of methods that minimize environmental, health, and economic risks. Included are Cornell Cooperative Extension resources available to homeowners regarding pest identification and strategies for management inside and around the home.

Composting Made Easy

If you've considered composting at home but were not sure how to get started this program will explain what to compost and demonstrate how to mix materials and manage the compost so you get the results you desire. There are also talks on the Broome County Landfill and Recycling.

By CCE Recycling and Composting Educator

The following are a list of topics by Master Gardener Volunteer, Tony Antes:

Caladiums

Fantastic Foliage! – Let's put some amazing color in the shady part of your garden. And, it lasts all season long.

Celebration of St. Valentine's Day in Plants - AKA – There's Love in the Air!

In this presentation, we will explore the origins of Saint Valentine's Day. We will look at heart-shaped flowers, heart-shaped leaves, and blooms associated with Valentine's Day.

Climate Change in NY State

What does the future hold for NY State related to Climate Change? In 2050? In 2100? Are we responsible?

Container Vegetable Gardening

Is your garden getting to be too much? Or is your yard too small? Then consider growing your fresh vegetables in containers. It's fun, easy, and very rewarding! Here's how.

Creating a Butterfly Garden

Would you like to see more butterflies in your garden? Some very basic guidelines through step-by-step pictures, with some pre-planning on your part, can achieve just that.

Grasses - Good!

Ornamental grasses belong in everyone's garden! Deer-proof, low maintenance, and virtually pest-free, not to mention beautiful.

Growing Miniature Violets

Beautiful leaves and blooms in a very small space. Easy care, too.

Growing Scented Geraniums

Lemon, rose, chocolate and more fragrances from the foliage. Hardy as well.

Hostas - Lurking in the Shadows

A wide variety of foliage size and color for that shady corner in your garden.

House Plants

Enjoy gardening in the comfort of your home, 365 days a year.

Hydrangeas

This presentation covers the different species and cultivars commonly available and the care and maintenance they need including pruning, propagation by cuttings, drying, and changing bloom color in most hydrangeas.

Intelligent Plants

Can plants think? Can they hear? Feel? Organize. Some fascinating research is attempting to answer exactly these questions.

Perennial Gardening

Gardens that return year after year, in a bewildering variety of size, color, and beauty.

Plant Diseases

Some really ugly stuff is ready to threaten the very existence of your garden unless you remain ever vigilant.

Putting Your Garden to Bed

The very best thing you can do for a beautiful spring and summer garden next year is to properly put it to bed in the fall.

Shade Gardening

A wide variety of perennial plants, in both size and color, for that shady area in your yard.

Starting a Perennial Garden

Convert some of that green turf into a beautiful garden that will be the envy of your neighbors.

St. Patrick's Day in Plants

We all know about the shamrock, and no snakes in Ireland, but there is far more to St. Patrick's Day. There are numerous plants that are related to "the wearing of the green", and many facts and trivia as well.

The Story of Christmas in Plants Since the very earliest Christian times, there has been a Christmas association with plants. However, this symbology has actually existed far earlier than the Christian Era. In this presentation, we will explore traditional, contemporary, and even some arcane Christmas - plant associations.

Succulents

Learn all about these tough, drought tolerant plants. Fun and easy to grow, a great start for a new gardener!

Taxonomy

Learn to understand the correct scientific names for plants and what they mean.

Tomatoes and Peppers

Grow the two best annual veggies in your garden.

Tomatoes/Peppers/Onions/Garlic

Grow the four most desirable veggies in your garden.

Unusual Perennials

Tired of the "same old" in perennials? Plant and enjoy something different.

Who's that "Shady Lady"?

Ferns are the very best plants to fill in that shady corner in your perennial garden.