Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Etobicoke Master Gardener Presentation Topics & Descriptions
Visit our website at **etobicokemastergardenders.ca** for information on our group
To arrange a speaker email **etobicokemastergardeners@gmail.com** , or submit a request via our website 'Contact Us' page

Benefits of Gardening
Gardening can provide much more than just beautifying your landscape. Learn about the many unexpected benefits when gardening including those of the environment, property value, your physical & mental health, and your culinary passions, to say a few.

Bird Friendly Gardening
You'll learn about the ecology in your backyard, threats to birds & pollinators, how to create a bird friendly garden, plants to encourage birds and pollinators to your garden, how to identify some common birds in Canadian gardens, and some fun projects.

Choose Your Champion: Picking Plants for a Healthy Garden
Picking Plants for a Healthy Garden. Learn about "Native Plants," their attractions and benefits and the challenging "Invasive" plants - who they are and what you can do to remove them and replace them in your garden with alternative native plants. Wear your walking shoes and dress for the weather and enjoy the gardens.

Creating your Balcony Oasis: Tips and Tricks for Balcony Gardening
A balcony garden is a beautiful and delightful spot to create a small oasis of nature. With a selection of plants, pots, and a dash of creativity, transform your balcony into a vibrant garden. Discover which plants thrive in this environment, think vertically to maximize space, and use your rails for a hanging garden. Learn about container gardening, including suitable plants, design concepts, and the essentials for success. And remember to check your building guidelines before you start.

Dream - Design - Dig: Planning a Successful Garden
Learn how to plan for a successful garden. You have heard about the 3 D's to pruning – Dead, Diseased, and Damage, we have 3 D's of planning – Dream, Design, Dig! We discuss key components and steps for planning your garden. Now is the time for all 'arm-chair gardeners' to start planning, see the 'bones' of the garden while you plan.

Exploring Trees and Shrubs
Learn about native trees & shrubs, their benefits to the environment and wildlife, how to identify various trees and shrubs, and considerations for incorporating them into your garden.

Garden Heroes & Villains
Learn about the Garden Heroes "Native Plants," what they are and their benefits. And what you can do about the Villains or "Invasive" plants and who they are. You will also learn about what to grow instead of those challenging invasive plants. Also, some interesting information on Good Bugs & Bad Bugs.

Growing Your Own Food: The Edible Garden
Get Growing, enjoy an introduction to growing food. You will learn about locations where you can grow your food, and what to grow including Plants for sun, shade, and flowers for food. Learn about how to increase your soil health, preparing the garden, planting, maintenance, and extending your growing season. Learn about how to increase your soil health, preparing the garden, planting, maintenance, and extending your growing season.

How to Garden Smart – Not Hard
Trial and error, learning from your mistakes, improving a process! Learn about choices for low maintenance gardening and tips on how to garden smart, not hard. Gain tips on how to select plants, watering techniques, working the soil, composting, and other valuable tips and techniques for low maintenance gardening.

Indoor Plant Gardening
Learn how to create your own indoor garden oasis by selecting indoor plants, learn about benefits of indoor plants, how to care and grow them successfully, some of the challenges of indoor gardening, and meet some of common and more unique and tropical indoor plants for your home.

Invasives and other challenges

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Learn the definition of an invasive plant, as well as the ecological problems they cause. Learn how to remove existing invasive plants, how to prevent new ones from moving in, and about suitable alternatives such as native plants to support the development of a healthy, diverse ecosystem. We will also touch on some of the newer pathogens, and diseases that infest our gardens.

Let's Get Growing! Plant propagation, seed saving, and growing from seeds.
You will learn about growing your own plants, why we grow our own plants, how to get growing from seeds, propagation, divisions, and cuttings. Ideas on creative ways to garden, the importance of soil health, learn what you can grow with a focus on food and native plants, and don't forget about key considerations for maintaining your plants.

Moveable Landscapes: *Container Gardens*
Not only can containers be moved from one home to another, but they can also be moved within one's home to change décor and atmosphere, they can be moved to safety during a storm, or to allow for changing sun and moisture needs. Almost anything can be grown in a container, if they are given care, you would a regular garden. Learn about *moveable landscapes*, what grows in containers, container garden design concepts, and the fundamentals of success.

Native Plant Gardening 101
Get started with native plant gardening with this free workshop from the Etobicoke Master Gardeners! Native plants are those plants which occur naturally in an area, having evolved locally alongside each other and with the native wildlife. They are a fundamental part of local ecology, and without them many other species cannot survive.

Plant Identification
Advance your knowledge of plant identification through plant names and classification. Explore key plant structures and learn how to identify plants by their scientific name, using relevant resources such as botanical keys, identification manuals, and online tools. You will advance your knowledge of plant identification and use in the landscape and learn the basic requirements and cultural practices involved in caring for plants.

Pests and Pathogens
Learn about the pests and pathogens that may show up in local gardens - plus how to deal with them if they show up in yours!

Pollinator and Bird Friendly Gardens
Learn about pollinators and their importance in our backyard ecology, which plants and other features can turn your garden into a haven for the birds and the bees (and other pollinators). Learn how to attract and support native wildlife in your own yard, and identify some common birds in Ontario

Preparing Your Garden for Spring:
As the weather warms up, our thoughts turn to 'Spring Cleaning', and what better than in your garden. Learn what you should clean in your garden in the spring, how to care for your soil, an overview of pruning techniques, and how to care for your favourite tools. For those who can't wait for plants to grow in the garden, learn how to start your garden from seeds, cuttings, and bulbs, and how to select your plants. And don't forget to prepare your lawn, and other tips for the spring.

Putting Your Garden to Sleep
As the weather cools down start preparing to put your garden to sleep. Learn what you should do to prepare your garden for winter including planting, pruning, general cleanup and maintenance of all your garden and plants, shrubs, trees, pots, and tools. Then sit back and start reading those garden books and catalogues you have been collecting to plan for next year's garden.

Pruning
You'll learn about the importance of pruning, proper pruning techniques, get tips on what to prune when, talk about some of the common tools used for pruning, and find out how to care for them.

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Soil Health – The Natural Approach.
You'll learn what soil is made of what good soil provides to plants, and how to test for basic soil types. Also, learn about the benefits of composting, compositing basics, along with what is mycorrhizae, its benefits, and how we use it. You will learn how to feed your soil, so your soil will feed your plants!"

Sustainable Gardening - "Climate-resilient gardening"
Learn how to select plants with a focus on native plants, what plants need to thrive, how to prepare your soil, watering strategies, understand your climate, considerations of climate change, plant hardiness zones, and changes in the sun exposure in your garden with increased development

Tame the untamed Garden
There are many reasons why a garden grows out of control. Plants take over, weeds pop up, branches grow at odd angles, the wrong plant is chosen for a specific spot and sometimes the gardener wears other hats and simply can't keep up.
Join the Etobicoke Master Gardeners and learn fixes for an overgrown garden. Learn how to tame your garden through pruning techniques, transplanting, controlling weeds, selecting the right plant, and other techniques to rejuvenate your garden and take control.

Urban Gardening
We all enjoy Gardening in the City, learn about the Urban Micro-Climate, and how to create a healthy Eco-system. You will learn how to protect your land & water, techniques for Urban Gardening, Plant Selection, tips for Growing Your Own Food, and a bit about the Wildlife in the Garden

We want to garden but!
Want to learn how to start a garden, but not sure where to begin? Join the Etobicoke Master Gardeners to learn how to have a successful garden. Learn about the health benefits of gardening, how to select plants, what plants need to thrive, how to prepare your soil, watering strategies, understand your climate and the plant hardiness zones, essential equipment, and answers to so many more questions to help get you started.