



Gaia College
 "Cultivating Community"

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Are you looking

- To live and work in a way that is congruent with your personal values?
- For gardening skills that are relevant in these times of environmental and social change?
- A career that satisfies your need to make a meaningful contribution to your community?

For nearly a decade Gaia College has been working to transform horticulture education.

Our courses integrate essential knowledge of ecology, permaculture and organic gardening to build a solid foundation for employment, self-employment, or simply greater personal enjoyment.

EDUCATION PARTNERS

Our education partners include:



*Diploma in
 Organic Land Care*

Seeing and Doing Things
 Differently



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DIPLOMA IN ORGANIC LAND CARE

Upon completion of our 4 core Certificate programs students earn the Gaia College Diploma in Organic Land Care. Each of these programs focuses on a unique aspect of organic land care:

- Organic Master Gardener Course
- Ecological Landscape Design
- Growing Food
- Plant Knowledge for Organic Gardeners.

All courses are offered on a part-time access basis to allow students to continue to work while studying.

Courses can be taken individually and in any order, although we strongly suggest that everyone start with the Organic Master Gardener course.

For more information and to register for any of our programs, please visit www.gaiacollege.ca

ORGANIC MASTER GARDENER COURSE

An intense and eye-opening introduction to the science and practice of organic horticulture. Upon completion of the course you will understand the connection between soil health, plant health, human health and environmental health.

Be prepared for a major shift in paradigms! This is a gardening course, and so much more. Students have called it "life changing".

- Learn to create fabulous food and ornamental gardens without pesticides and other harmful chemicals
- Gain essential skills to start or enhance your own business in the rapidly growing organic land care industry
- Prepare to write the SOUL Organic Certification exam for land care professionals
- Find the inspiration and confidence to practice organic horticulture.

PLANT KNOWLEDGE FOR ORGANIC GARDENERS

Organic gardeners focus on the creation of plant and landscape health - plant knowledge is essential.

Over the course of several months you will learn to identify approximately 300 plants. For each plant you will explore its ecosystem of origin, and under which conditions it thrives best, or just marginally survives. You will learn how it adapts to our environment, and how you can provide it with optimal care. Finally you will learn about its non-ornamental uses, such as food, medicine, fiber.

ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Yes, a garden can be stunning and low maintenance, a haven for wildlife in urban environments, a self-sustaining ecosystem - all at the same time.

Landscape health starts with intelligent design. In this course you will explore the intricate relationships within ecosystems, and how you can work with them to create vibrantly beautiful and healthy gardens.

You will also gain a deeper understanding of the business of landscape design, and learn to produce professional quality plans and presentations.

GROWING FOOD

This practical, hands-on course is open to everyone, no prior education or gardening experience required. You will learn essential permaculture and organic gardening techniques to

- Create and maintain healthy soil, which in turn can grow nutritious food
- Analyze and optimize the growing conditions in your garden
- Creatively collect, use and preserve water for optimal garden health
- Use holistic solutions for plant health problems ("pests" and "diseases")
- Select, plant, maintain, harvest a large variety of food plants for year-round enjoyment
- Store your harvest and save your own seeds.