



**Cornell University**  
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**Ulster County**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THINK SPRING! Winter Lecture Series for Home Gardeners Returns in 2011**  
*"Four fun and informative seminars to choose from"*

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County Master Gardener Program is once again offering a series of workshops during February and March to help the avid home gardener get prepared for spring.

Classes will be held on Thursdays, February 10, and February 24, and Tuesdays, March 8 and March 29. All classes will be from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Ulster County BOCES located at 175 Rt. 32 North in New Paltz. Participants may choose the class or classes they are most interested in or sign up for the entire series. The fee for individual classes is \$15 or \$50 for all four. **Class sizes are limited. Pre-registration is encouraged.**

For more information call Dona Crawford at 845-340-3990. General class information and registration forms and can be downloaded on the Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County website under the Master Gardener Program section at [www.cceulster.org](http://www.cceulster.org)

**General Class Information**

**Thursday, February 10, 7:00pm to 9:00pm**

**Part 1. Site Selection: Soil tests & amendments for your vegetable garden.**

A successful garden begins with the soil. Learn what your soil is, how compost can correct and enhance soil structure and how proper pH will unlock valuable nutrients that your plants need. Equally important is available sunlight. Even with less than optimal light conditions, we'll tell you how you can still have a vegetable garden.

***Instructor:** Frank Almquist is a retired engineer and a Master Gardener for over ten years. His garden is registered as an official Display Garden with the American Hemerocallis Society where he tends his extensive collection of daylilies.*

*Part 2. Bed Preparation*

Vegetable gardens can range from traditional row plantings to container gardens with many options in between. Learn what style of garden will best meet your needs. In addition, we'll take the mystery out of choosing fertilizers and mulch and how to use them to keep your garden growing throughout the season.

*Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities*

**Instructor:** Allyson Levy is a new Master Gardener. She and her husband have an edible and decorative garden company, Hortus Conclusus. She helped spearhead 2 edible gardens in the Rondout Valley School District, where she volunteers as a MG. Allyson and her husband are turning their 11-acre property into a botanical garden.

Thursday, February 24, 7:00pm to 9:00pm

### Part 3. Irrigation

Keeping your garden well watered doesn't have to be a chore. Today a wide variety of watering devices are available. We'll take a look at some of these options such as drip emitters, soaker hoses and sprinklers, timers to help deliver the water when it's needed and general installation information.

**Instructor:** Ellen Holmes has been gardening in the Catskills for over 30 years and is a Master Gardener volunteer. She and her husband maintain a large vegetable garden in Samsonville that yields good food year-round.

### Part 4. Vegetables From Seed From Spring through Fall

Each year we are inundated with seed catalogs & luring displays of seed packets at our favorite garden centers. Learn to base your choices on proven varieties for our local area and basic information such starting your own plants vs. buying, using coldframes, interplanting to maximize your garden space and crop rotation.

**Instructor:** Barbara Bravo is a Master Gardener, Garden Coach and ceramic artist. She is a frequent speaker at Garden Day and local events. Barbara has maintained ornamental and vegetable gardens at her home and studio for more than 20 years.

Tuesday, March 8, 7:00pm to 9:00pm

### Part 5. Pest Identification and Control

Just when you least expect it, you may discover that something is eating away at your plants. It's important to learn to identify the pest and then to respond appropriately. In this class you will learn about some of the most common pests that trouble vegetable gardens and how to control them. Topics of discussion include Integrated Pest Management (IPM), preventive measures such as using reemay covers or sticky traps and when it may be necessary to apply chemical controls.

**Instructor:** Teresa Rusinek is the Commercial and Community Horticultural Educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension in Ulster County where she provides oversight to the Ulster County Master Gardeners. She has had over 15 years experience in horticulture. Teresa works with vegetable farmers in Ulster County, helping them trouble shoot production problems.

## Part 6. Harvesting and Preserving

Your hard work has paid off and the crops are coming in. Wouldn't it be great to preserve some of these fabulous veggies for winter use? Learn how you can keep the flavors of summer close at hand through drying, canning and freezing.

**Instructor:** Kim Bissel is a Master Gardener Volunteer who enjoys spending time in the growing, cooking, and preserving of vegetables as well as maintaining gardens at the Ulster County Fair grounds. Seed to Table is her business--helping folks new to gardening and food preservation.

**Tuesday, March 29, 7:00pm to 9:00pm**



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**An Herbal Journey**

Herbs are legendary; they play prominent roles in the culinary arts and as aromatics. Their medicinal value is well known. In the ornamental garden they are easy to grow and mostly deer resistant. Take this journey and discover the rich history of herbs and some practical tips on growing, propagating, harvesting and storing.

***Instructor:** Alicia von Rhein is a Master Gardener who devotes her time to developing her backyard herbal, vegetable and flower gardens. Herbs have always held a fascination for her because of their varied uses in our lives and she enthusiastically shares her knowledge on the subject.*

For more information about Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County's community programs and events call 845-340-3990 or visit us online at [www.cceulster.org](http://www.cceulster.org) or follow us on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

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*Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County (CCEUC) is a 501(c) 3 subordinate government agency of the State of New York under Article 5, 224(b) of the NYS County Laws organization that utilizes research based knowledge through their partnership with Cornell University. This information is disseminated through their on-going community programming in the areas of Agriculture, Horticulture, 4-H Youth Development, Family and Consumer Science and Environmental programs held throughout Ulster County.*

*Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities*