

Adult Learning - Course Information Sheet



ACC3BA11 - The Healthy & Sustainable Garden

Caroline Chisholm School

Wooldale Road
Wootton Fields
Northants

NN4 6TP

Room Caroline Chisholm School

Start Date: 04 September 2024
End Date: 09 October 2024
Start Time: 7:00PM
End Time: 9:00PM
Day: Wednesday
Sessions: 6
Tutor: Ms Vikki Sargent

'Be a Better Gardener...'

This course is part of a series of short courses that aims to help you become a better gardener, whether you are just starting out or already have well-developed 'green fingers'. For more information about the series please see the final section of this document.

Course aim

Gardens are ecosystems - and a healthy ecosystem is one where the plants and their predators (pests and diseases) are in balance. This course aims to show you how to maintain your soil and plants so that the need for harmful chemicals and artificial fertilizers is minimised.

Course outcomes

- manage your garden soil, plant nutrients and water in your garden; so, your plants are healthy without over reliance on artificial fertilizers, harmful chemicals, or extra watering
- make and use your own compost and use green manures and mulches
- identify and conserve 'good bugs' and other helpful garden organisms to promote a healthy garden
- Identify and use 'light touch' controls for common garden weeds, pests, and diseases
- Use the knowledge gained to make sustainable choices for plants, materials, and gardening techniques.

How will the course be taught?

The course will be taught online via Zoom and will be a live interactive class. The course also has a fully featured course web site on Moodle - including information, videos, activities, and discussion spaces - to enhance your learning.

Joining instructions (along with your Moodle login details) will be emailed to you by our support services team prior to the course start date so please check your email address prior to the class.

Could I gain a certificate?

This course is not certificated.

What do I need to bring / have ready?

You will need: Pen and paper, suitable device to access the Zoom call and Moodle (laptop or tablet is ideal, functionality may be limited on phones), internet access, your Zoom and Moodle login details. Course study materials are available on the course Moodle site - if you are unable to use the Moodle site because of disability please advise when booking or tell your tutor in advance of the first session so adjustments can be made.

Further support and progression

If you need help whilst on a course with us, our Learner Support Advisor is available to discuss your needs. We offer a range of services, subject to eligibility, which can include practical support and/or financial assistance to ensure you feel fully supported while learning with us. For more information contact alsreferrals@northamptonshire.gov.uk or call 01536 535809 (answerphone available). Visit our website <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/adult-learning/fees-and-refunds> for further information about our fees and concessions. Your tutor will inform you of further learning opportunities and progression during your course.

Health and Safety / Online Safety

Your tutor will give you information about Health and Safety on the first session. To report suspected scams, or for information on preventing scams, call the Citizens Advice on 03454 04 05 06.

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Further information

This course forms part of a series of courses for new gardeners, or experienced gardeners who would like to brush up their knowledge or get a new perspective. The aim is to introduce the techniques of gardening, and the reasons why we do things in a particular way to get good results. There is a particular focus on environmentally sensitive gardening, but this is a series for all gardeners.

The series covers the following areas (select the ones that are appropriate for you – no need to do them all):

- a) The Healthy and Sustainable Garden. (6 Weeks)
- b) New Plants for your Garden (propagation) (5 weeks)
- c) Grow your own vegetables and fruit (7 weeks)
- d) Your ornamental garden (6 Weeks) starting 2024/25
- e) Introduction to Garden Planning and Design. (6 Weeks)

Northamptonshire Adult Learning Service work in partnership with National Careers Service advisers who can provide information, advice and guidance on skills, learning and work. National Careers Service can be contacted by telephone 0800 100 900 or text your name and the word ADVICE to 07766 413219 and an adviser will call you back for free or go to <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>