

# INTRODUCTION TO MARKET GARDENING and MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR CCF ALLOTMENT OR BACKYARD

## Course Modules

Course modules 1, 2 and 3 are suitable for both *Introduction to Market Gardening* participants, backyard growers and CCF plot holders. Modules 4 and 5 are for *Introduction to Market Gardening* participants only. It is expected that *Introduction to Market Gardening* participants would need to put aside an average 8 hours per week to maintain their plot adequately.

## Fees

All fees are payable before a module or component starts. Fees are not refundable after a module or component starts.

## Module 1: Introduction to Horticulture

This module will consist of three components, each of four weeks duration. Each component can be enrolled in separately.

Fee: \$80.00 for each component. Participants are welcome to choose only those components they are interested in. It is not necessary to do the whole module.

Prerequisites: No prerequisites.

Total Duration for Module: 6 weeks @ 4 hours per week (two weeks for each component).

### Component 1:

Soil characteristics

- *Subjects:*
  - Mineral
  - Chemical
  - Biological
- *Component Summary:* This component of Module 1 will provide practical advice on managing soil to ensure optimal fertility for producing high quality fruit and vegetables using organic principles. The important physical, chemical and biological properties of soil will be described. Participants will also be shown how to assess and modify their own soil properties to ensure their soil is in optimal condition for growing nutritious fruit and vegetables. Particular emphasis will be placed on the biological properties of soil as the driver of soil fertility. All participants are encouraged to bring a sample of their garden soil for assessment. The course consists of two sessions of four hours each on 18 April and 9 May. The total cost for both sessions is \$80.00. Each session runs from 10:30am to 3:30pm with a lunch break from 12:30pm to 1:30pm (BYO lunch). To enroll in this course, please visit the website [https://ccfarm.org.au/newsite/?page\\_id=175](https://ccfarm.org.au/newsite/?page_id=175) and follow the prompts.

This is a face to face course. It is suitable for allotment holders and backyard gardeners. It is also part of the Introduction to Market Gardening course.

### Component 2:

Pests and Diseases

- *Subjects:*
  - Integrated Pest and Disease Management
  - Descriptions of common plant pests and diseases

- Management of common plant pests and diseases
- *Component Summary:* This component of Module 1 will provide practical advice to enable course participants to deal with common pests and diseases encountered in the garden using organic methods. The main focus will be on pests and diseases of fruit and vegetables in the Canberra region, but these same techniques are also applicable to ornamental plants. The life which inhabits our gardens, viruses, bacteria, fungi, arthropods, etc will be described. Assistance will be provided in recognising the most common pests and diseases in Canberra region gardens and how to deal with them using the systematic approach to Integrated Pest and Disease Management techniques. The component consists of two sessions of four hours each on 23 May and 6 June. The total cost for both sessions is \$80.00. Each session runs from 10:30am to 3:30pm with a lunch break from 12:30pm to 1:30pm (BYO lunch). To enroll in this course, please visit the website [https://ccfarm.org.au/newsite/?page\\_id=175](https://ccfarm.org.au/newsite/?page_id=175) and follow the prompts.

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### Component 3:

Cultural requirements of common food plants

- *Subjects:*
  - Climate requirements
  - Space requirements
  - Propagation
- *Component Summary:* This component of Module 1 will describe the cultural requirements of the common food plants grown in the Canberra region. The local climate characteristics which determine available planting times, plant growth and harvesting times for a wide range of food plants will be described. Participants will be provided with month by month planting guides as well as a planting and harvesting schedule to maximise the productivity of a garden and avoid gluts. Propagation techniques for a variety of plants will be described and participants will have the opportunity to propagate plants in trays and punnets. The component consists of two sessions of four hours each on 27 June and 18 July. The total cost for both sessions is \$80.00. Each session runs from 10:30am to 3:30pm with a lunch break from 12:30pm to 1:30pm (BYO lunch). To enroll in this course, please visit the website [https://ccfarm.org.au/newsite/?page\\_id=175](https://ccfarm.org.au/newsite/?page_id=175) and follow the prompts.

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### **Module 2: Crop Management.**

Fee: \$100.00.

Prerequisite: Module 1.

Duration: 2 weeks @ 4 hours per week and 1 week @ 2 hours

Crop Management

- *Subjects:*
  - choosing crops to grow
  - develop a garden work calendar for twelve months including:
    - develop a planting/replanting schedule
    - develop a crop maintenance schedule

- develop a harvesting schedule
  - develop a bed maintenance schedule
  - calculating crop volumes
- record keeping
- *Module Summary:* This Module builds on the information presented in Module 1. Participants will be guided through the process of developing a planting, maintenance and harvesting schedule and keeping records for their own garden for the following twelve months. Information on germination and growing temperatures, time to maturity and plant spacings for common crops will be provided. This is predominantly a practical module to assist participants to plan their own garden. The module consists of two sessions of four hours each on 8 August and 22 August from 10:30am to 3:30pm with a lunch break from 12:30pm to 1:30pm (BYO lunch) and a two hour session on 5 September 1:30 to 3:30pm. The cost for this Module is \$100.00. To enroll in this course, please visit the website [https://ccfarm.org.au/newsite/?page\\_id=175](https://ccfarm.org.au/newsite/?page_id=175) and follow the prompts. It is suitable for allotment holders and backyard gardeners. It is also part of the Introduction to Market Gardening course.

**Module 3:** Practical gardening.

Fee: \$250.00

Prerequisites: Module 1 and 2.

Duration: At least 2 hours per month tuition for 12 months for market gardeners (combined with Module 4).

At least 2 hours per month tuition for 12 months for allotment holders and backyard gardeners.

**Practical Gardening:**

- *Subjects*
  - bed design
  - bed preparation
  - bed maintenance
  - install watering systems
  - watering schedule
  - planting (seeds and seedlings)
  - plant maintenance
  - green manures
  - compost
  - weed control
  - pest and disease surveillance
  - crop protection
  - harvesting and storage
- *Module Summary:* This Module will build on the material presented in Modules 1 and 2. It will provide mostly practical one on one guidance for participants working in their own plots. On occasions there may be formal presentations on any or all the above subjects depending on the needs of participants. The content covered will be adjusted to accommodate the knowledge and experience of individual participants. This module will not run until after Module 2 has been completed on 5 September. Until a sufficient number of participants have enrolled it is not possible to give a starting date but it will usually be on Sundays. If you require more information email [mgtraining@ccfarm.org.au](mailto:mgtraining@ccfarm.org.au).

**Module 4:** Practice Plots (up to 40 sq metres) for market gardeners. Must be taken in conjunction with Module 3.

Fee: \$300.00

Prerequisites: Module 1, 2.

Duration: 12 months

Inclusions:

- use of plot for practical gardening module
- access to plot at all times
- water
- dripper system
- space on heated bench
- poly tunnel space (limited availability)
- cloche (limited availability)
- tools (spader, seeder, hand tools, wheel hoe if available)

**Module 5:** Marketing the crop for market gardeners.

Fee: \$210.00

Prerequisites: To be taken in concurrently with or after Module 4.

Duration: 20 hours spread over 12 months

Marketing the crop:

- *Subjects:*
  - business issues
  - self care
  - market access
  - customer liaison
  - scheduling/planning your time
  - options for selling your products
  - harvesting and storage
  - washing, packing and presentation
- *Module Summary:* This module is for market gardeners only. It broadly covers the business aspects of market gardening. There will be a variety of presenters with experience in the above subjects. As with Module 5, this module will not run until after Module 2 has been completed on 5 September. Until a sufficient number of participants have enrolled it is not possible to give a starting date but it will usually be on Sundays. If you require more information email [mgtraining@ccfarm.org.au](mailto:mgtraining@ccfarm.org.au).