

# Garden-Based Learning Library

The Cornell Garden-Based Learning program developed an online learning library for the Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteer statewide network. This curriculum aims to prepare our volunteers to support our Extension mission, vision, and values through their peer education efforts in their local community programs.



## GBL Learning Library

Cornell Garden-Based Learning (CGBL) provides vetted resources and materials for county programs in our Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) state network.

With this multi-year project, CGBL sought to develop a new online community of practice for county program coordinators across NYS. This Learning Library allows program coordinators to easily obtain vetted materials, resources, and tools to prepare their local volunteers for community engagement activities that align with their plans of work.

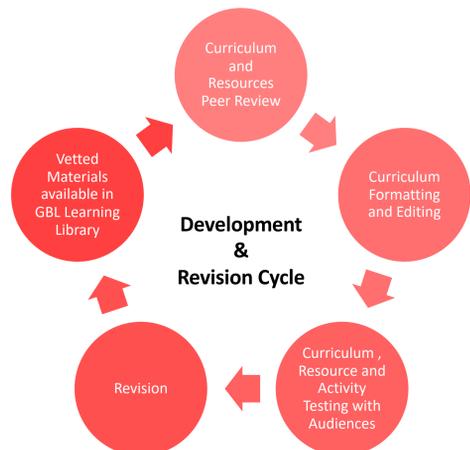
The Moodle online course management platform was selected as the vehicle for 24-7 access for statewide educators. This classroom tool allowed for the development of an online community resource library that helps improve program quality, consistency, diversity, and reach. Materials and resources are prepared utilizing standardized templates for consistency and ease of use.

## Development & Revision Cycle

Cornell Garden-Based Learning (CGBL) guides Extension educators (staff members) in connecting with topical experts on campus, statewide, and nationally through the provision of quality resources and training materials. CGBL facilitates professional development on emerging topics and implementation strategies through in person and on line trainings, and through learning projects in community settings. Professional development resources and training materials are evaluated on an on-going basis, and updated via collaboration with county program leaders and experts for effectiveness in achieving plan of work outcomes and other identified goals.

## Advanced Training Topics

Advanced material topics are in ongoing development to provide participants with opportunities to engage with complex subject matter and emerging issues including Seed Saving, Cover Crops, Engaging Low-Literacy Audiences, and Science Communication.



The Garden-Based Learning Library is a website in the Moodle course management system. The Learning Library is robust with vetted materials and resources for Cornell Cooperative (CCE) Extension Master Gardener Volunteer county programs to use as they prepare their volunteers to be confident and effective peer educators in their communities. Volunteer program coordinators received training on the navigating the site and materials through in-service trainings and webinars, and on-going support is provided through similar means and one-on-one coaching. Section resources are listed below.

### Introduction

Section 0.1 Adult Learning and Peer Learning Networks  
Section 0.2 Community Engagement and Action Projects

### Module 1: The Fundamentals

Section 1.1 Plant Biology for Gardeners  
Section 1.2 Right Plant, Right Place  
Section 1.3 Beneficial Insects  
Section 1.4 Basic Plant Pathology

### Module 2: Food Gardening

Section 2.1a Vegetable Gardening (Part 1 of 2)  
Section 2.1b Vegetable Gardening (Part 2 of 2)  
Section 2.2 Fruit Gardening  
Section 2.3 Nutrition, Food Safety and Food Security (Post-Harvest)

### Module 3: Ornamental Plants and Ecosystems Services

Section 3.1 Woody Plants  
Section 3.2 Herbaceous Plants  
Section 3.3 Lawn Care and Ecosystems Services

### Module 4: Problem Solving

Section 4.1 Integrated Pest Management  
Section 4.2 Pesticide Use and Reading Labels  
Section 4.3a Pests of Food Crops and Ornamental Plants (Part 1 of 2)  
Section 4.3b Pests in the Home and Garden (Part 2 of 2)

### Module 5: Management Strategies

Section 5.1 Organic Waste Management (Composting)  
Section 5.2 Soil Amendments and Fertilizers  
Section 5.3 Invasive Species for Gardeners  
Section 5.4 Gardening in a Warming World

### Module 6: Starting and Sustaining Learning Gardens

Section 6.1 Group Gardens and NYS Seed to Supper Network  
Section 6.2 Youth Development and School Gardens

### Module 7: Action Project Presentations & Orientation to Local Program Areas

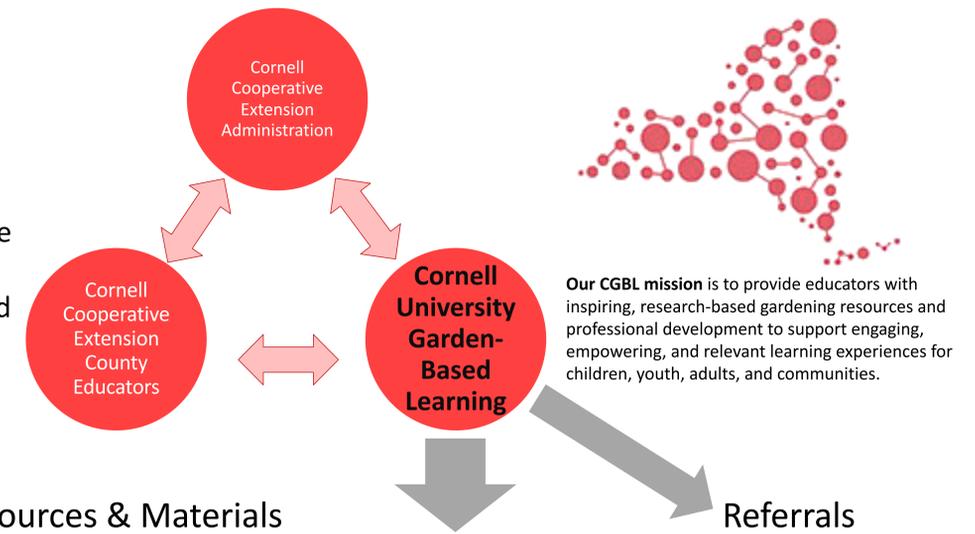
Section 7.1 Action Project Presentations  
Section 7.2 Orientation to Local Program Areas

### Advanced Training Sessions

### Management and Technical Assistance

Consistent formatting, accessible and easy to apply to in-person, blended learning or remote training.

Rigorous peer review, vetted by experts, updated on a planned basis as funding is available.



Our CGBL mission is to provide educators with inspiring, research-based gardening resources and professional development to support engaging, empowering, and relevant learning experiences for children, youth, adults, and communities.

## Resources & Materials

CGBL facilitates professional development for county Extension educators, develops and maintains resources and materials, implements statewide garden-based learning projects in community settings with diverse audiences, and collaborates with program leaders to evaluate effectiveness of curriculum, projects, and professional development.

<b>Garden-Based Learning Website</b>	<b>Program Coordinator Virtual Meetings</b>	<b>Horticulture Diagnostic Listserv</b>
<b>Educator Technical Assistance</b> garden@cornell.edu		<b>Educator Training</b> CCE In-service & Systems Conference

**Garden-Based Learning Library**

Resources to support preparing CCE Master Gardener Volunteer as local peer educators.

<b>Announcements</b> Enrolled users automatically receive email invitations to regular web calls and announcements about program updates.	<b>Blog</b> Educator Technical Assistance responses are shared with enrolled users and archived for future reference and discussion.	<b>Glossary</b> Common terms utilized in the Garden-Based Learning Library curriculum.
<b>Module Forum</b> Discussion section for facilitators to share comments and ideas.		
<b>Section Resources</b> Digital curriculum resources and materials.		
<b>Learning Outcomes</b> align with statewide plans of work and are clearly stated for both facilitator and participant.		
<b>Guides and Slides</b> •Facilitator Guide •Participant Guide •PPT Presentation •Videos	<b>Knowledge Check</b> •Knowledge Check •Answer Key	<b>Print Materials</b> •Activities •Readings •Handouts

## Referrals

CGBL guides educators to quality programs and experts.

- National Initiative for Consumer Horticulture (NICH)
- National Extension Master Gardener Network (EMG)
- National eXtension
- Campus Diagnostic Labs
- Cornell Botanic Gardens
- NYS IPM
- Other states, programs and partner agencies