



# Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association

## News Release

VIU is offering a new course – Advanced Gardener: Theory and Practice

Designed for enthusiastic home gardeners, this course provides an overview of gardening basics. Topics include: soils; composting; plant identification; shrubs, trees, perennials and annuals; berries; vegetables; plant propagation; pruning; weeds, pests and their controls. The program emphasizes environmentally responsible gardening practices. Advanced Gardener: Theory and Practice is deemed equivalent to Master Gardener Theory. Upon completion, students are invited to take the Volunteer Service Component to qualify for the full Master Gardener certificate.

The course begins Saturday, September 14, 2013: 9 am – 4:30 pm (12X) excluding Thanksgiving weekend, and costs \$685 plus tax. The course will be held at the Paine Horticultural Centre, 2324 East Wellington Road, Nanaimo. Attendance at an information session on May 22, 2013, from 6-8 pm is required.

The instructor is Jessica Gemmel.

Contact the VIU Continuing Education Cowichan office 1-888-747-3519 toll-free or 250-746-3519. [www.viu.ca/ccs/certificates/mastergardener.asp](http://www.viu.ca/ccs/certificates/mastergardener.asp).