



## **VEGETABLE GARDENING**

HOS 1014 - 1 CREDIT

FALL 2025

<b>LOCATION</b>	Horticultural Sciences Teaching Garden	
<b>MEETING TIMES</b>	August 21 <sup>st</sup>	4:05 – 6:00 pm
	Before Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursdays 10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> period	5:10 – 7:05 pm
	After Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursdays 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> period	4:05 – 6:00 pm

### **INSTRUCTOR**

Dr. Amethyst Merchant  
amethyst@ufl.edu  
1131 Fifield Hall  
(352) 273 – 4595

**OFFICE HOURS**      Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:00 pm in-person or via Zoom (by appointment)  
Other times by appointment; Zoom link - <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3712177953>

Please call or email me directly with any questions or concerns. Feel free to request an online appointment via Zoom. For class-related communications, please use email within CANVAS.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course aims to teach students from all majors how to grow vegetables, fruits, and herbs in a home garden. Basic principles of gardening and agriculture are presented in the lectures. Then, students apply these principles in their individual gardens.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Design and start your own garden after considering the resource requirements of the various plant species.
- Explain in general terms how seed sowing, transplanting, irrigation, fertilization, weed management, pest control, disease management, and crop timing work.
- Utilize these basic gardening skills/practices to successfully grow plants and harvest crops in your garden.

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

### **Textbook**

There is no required textbook for this course. However, UF/IFAS Extension has developed a multitude of publications to help gardeners and backyard growers. These publications are excellent reference materials for this course. Here is a link to one we will use during the first class:

- *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*, [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)

Other material will be provided as handouts or website links.

### **Slideshows**

The slideshows presented in this class will be available on CANVAS. Discussions in class and hands-on work in the garden will add context to this material (focus on application of this information). Note that class attendance is required to earn points for work completed in the garden.

### **Course Website**

This course has a site in the CANVAS platform. The syllabus, handouts, lectures, and quizzes will be posted throughout the semester. New material will be added throughout the semester. You will be completing quizzes and uploading assignments into CANVAS.

## **COURSE ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS AND GRADING**

### **1. Weekly Quizzes**

**36 points**

Every Friday by midnight, a quiz will become available in CANVAS. This includes tomorrow. Each quiz will include up to 10 questions, be worth 3 points, and you will have 12 minutes to complete the quiz. Quizzes can only be taken once. Questions may be multiple choice, true or false, fill in the blank, or short answer. Quizzes will be available to take until the following Friday at midnight.

There are a total of 13 quizzes. Weekly quizzes can be taken even if a student misses the previous gardening session if approval of excuse is given by Dr. Merchant. A makeup quiz may be granted if a student has a justifiable excuse. Each student's lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the semester.

### **2. Garden**

**22 points**

Each student will have their own garden plot in the field. Students are responsible for planning, planting, and maintaining their gardens. Students will be provided seeds, transplants, fertilizer, tools, and pest control implements throughout the semester. Although we may apply some water during classtime, irrigation will be automatic throughout the semester. However, you will be responsible for all other aspects of maintaining your garden. This garden will be your source of content for your blog (explained in next section), your semester long task (worth 22 points), and your source of bragging rights! We will use class time to demonstrate how to take care of your garden, but you are encouraged to come throughout the week to work in it as much as you want.

Your garden will be evaluated in the middle and at the end of the semester. Your attendance and participation quality will impact the points you earn.

### 3. Blog about Gardening and your garden 42 points

Students are responsible for designing, creating, and maintaining a gardening blog. Blogs must be publicly available (no password required). Your professor prefers the use of *wordpress, wix, or blogger.com* since other blogging networks are not as compatible with CANVAS. Each post is worth 3.5 points. Suggestion: Create a post each week to be sure to earn full credit. Each post must include 200-500 words and at least one multi-media item (picture, video, audio recording, etc.). Topic guidelines for posts will be provided by your professor during class, but please feel free to come up with your own. No blog post is required during Thanksgiving Break. You are expected to have at least 12 blogs.

**How to setup blogs - For Assignment 3 you will create a blog using Blogger.com.**

**NOTE: The URL should contain blogspot.com. Be sure to make your blog "public" so Dr. Merchant can view it.**

Information about creating and managing a Blog can be found at:

<https://support.google.com/blogger/answer/41440?hl=en>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmOmQraJI0s&feature=plcp>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjL1oWA05ew&feature=plcp>

#### GRADING SCALE

A	=	92.6 - 100 points	C	=	72.6 – 77.4 points
A-	=	90.0 – 92.5 points	C-	=	70 – 72.5 points
B+	=	87.5 – 89.9 points	D+	=	67.5 – 69.9 points
B	=	82.6 – 87.4 points	D	=	62.6 – 67.4 points
B-	=	80.0 – 82.5 points	D-	=	60.0 – 62.5 points
C+	=	77.5 – 79.9 points	E	=	< 59.9 points

Additional information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found here:

- *Grading policy*, <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### Attendance and Make-up Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

- *UF Attendance policy*, <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

You are required to attend each garden session. Attendance will be taken. Absences will be excused for documented emergencies and acceptable reasons per UF's policy. However, work must be made up to earn points. In other words, an excused absence does NOT excuse the work. Documentation is required to make up missed work.

Life has been particularly tough lately. Thus you are allowed one absence per semester, no questions asked. Additional unexcused absences will result in a loss of 50% of your quiz points for the week in which the absence occurred.

### Academic Honesty

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity." You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action.

- For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>

### Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken when appropriate.

### Services for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

- *Disability Resource Center*, 0001 Reid Hall, (352) 392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)

### Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- *Counseling and Wellness Center*, 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575, [www.counseling.ufl.edu](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu)
  - Counseling Services
  - Groups and Workshops
  - Outreach and Consultation
  - Self-Help Library
  - Wellness Coaching
- *U Matter We Care*, [www.umatter.ufl.edu](http://www.umatter.ufl.edu)
- *Student Success Initiative*, <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/>

Additionally, if you would like orientation on choosing a major, finding an internship, or planning your career, I encourage you to use the university's on-campus resources.

- *Career Connections Center*, CR-100 Reitz Union, 392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/>

### Course Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students>.

Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

## Student Complaints

You can file and resolve any complaints about your experience in this course in the following site:

- *Student complaints in residential courses*, <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>
- *Student complaints in online courses*, <http://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>

## **HOS1014 – Vegetable Gardening**

### Tentative Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>
08-21	Week 1: Introduction to Course; Garden Tour; Planning and Seed Planting
08-28	Week 2: Plant Anatomy and Food Production; Planning and Seed Planting
09-04	Week 3: Seasons and Growing Options
09-11	Week 4: Direct Seeding, Transplants, and Cuttings
09-18	Week 5: Plant Families
09-25	Week 6: Factors Influencing Plant Growth and Development
10-02	Week 7: Watering
10-09	Week 8: Fertilizing Our Garden
10-16	Week 9: Garden Pests
10-23	Week 10: Container Gardening
10-30	Week 11: Protected Agriculture
11-06	Week 12: Composting
11-13	Week 13: Harvesting and Catch-up
11-20	Week 14: Harvesting and Catch-up
11-27	No Class - Thanksgiving holidays
	NO FINAL EXAM....ONLY A LAST QUIZ