



AG 497: Gardening in East Texas Heat

Fall 2026 Syllabus

Online, asynchronous, self-paced

Course Information

Instructor: Dr. Grace Flusche Ogden

Preferred form of communication: Email

E-mail: grace.ogden@etamu.edu

Expected response time: 48 hours

Class time & Place: asynchronous, online/D2L

Office Hours: I have scheduled two virtual office hour periods to help field questions. However, I can accommodate requests throughout the course- send me a request via email and we can set up a virtual visit.

September 9 1-2PM

<https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/99542880186>

September 30 1-2 PM

<https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/94576373823>

Course Purpose: Welcome to Gardening in the East Texas Heat! This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of gardening in the challenging climate of East Texas. This course will begin with understanding your climate and soil, selecting crops for your region, then identifying common insects, weeds, and diseases. From there, materials will focus on gardening methods for water conservation and design principles. While “East Texas” is the focus of the course, you are welcome to apply course principles to your specific growing location.

Course Text: All materials will be provided in D2L. You do not need to purchase any materials for this course.

Learning Objectives

- Recognize soil considerations and plant hardiness zones for your region.
- Select suitable crops for East Texas gardening.
- Identify important weeds, insects, and diseases.
- Recall garden design principles.
- Describe water conservation methods to use in the hot climate of East Texas.

Grading

Course Grades: The overall grade in the class will be assigned as either S (Satisfactory) = 60% - 100%, or U (Unsatisfactory) = 0% - 59%.

Attendance: Attendance in this online, asynchronous course includes “logging in” to D2L regularly and completing course materials and unit quizzes.

Course Work

Instructional Methods/Activities/Assessments: Content is broken down across 5 units. Content will be available for the full duration of the course. Content may include:

- Online articles from extension agencies
- YouTube videos
- Instructor Developed videos, slides, or handouts
- How-To Activities

Quizzes: One quiz per unit will be administered via D2L and will count for 20% of your grade (5 quizzes= 100%). Each quiz is a simple completion quiz, asking if you completed the unit materials; the one exception to this is the Course Wrap Up & Reflection Quiz, which does have a short written response question.

Late work policy: All quizzes must be completed by October 15th, 2026 for grading consideration. You do not have to email me to receive this grace period, just complete your quizzes.

Expectations

1. Read, analyze, and complete materials in each unit.
2. Log into D2L at least once per week.
3. Ask for help when you need it!

Correspondence: E-mail is the best way to contact me. Please put “Gardening in East Texas Heat Course” in the subject line of all emails pertaining to class. Include your full name in your email.

Extra Activities and Information

Gardening Demonstration Opportunities

Our team has scheduled two days for students from this course to visit Twin Oaks for an exclusive tour and meet others in the class.

Wednesday, September 16th, 2026 3-4pm

Friday, October 2nd, 2026 1-2 pm (ETAMU homecoming is October 3rd!)

Please RSVP via email (grace.ogden@etamu.edu) to attend so I can provide enough student assistance for our activities.

Here are a few helpful contacts if you need assistance with D2L:

ETAMU D2L Help 903-886-5511 or online@etamu.edu

D2L Corporate website for FAQs and helpful tips: <https://www.d2l.com/support/>

D2L Corporate helpline: 877-325-7778

Unit and Topic	Tentative Date to Complete	Assignment
Unit 1: East Texas Growing Potential- Climate, Crops, and Considerations	September 10th	Unit 1 Quiz
Unit 2: Important Insects & Weeds for Gardening in East Texas	September 20th	Unit 2 Quiz
Unit 3: Gardening with “Water Wise” Principles in East Texas Heat	September 30th	Unit 3 Quiz
Unit 4: Garden Design and Implementation	October 10th	Unit 4 Quiz
Course Wrap Up & Reflection	October 16th	Course Wrap Up & Reflection Quiz

Tentative Schedule

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS: All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the technical requirements.

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Access and Navigation:

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course-Specific Policies and Procedures

See above under “Grading”

Grades of Incomplete: A grade of Incomplete (X) will not be given in this class.

University-Specific Policies and Procedures

Student Conduct:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.a_spx

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance:

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity:

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services:

East Texas A&M University Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice:

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement:

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M University Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer. Web URL: <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health:

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support



Fluid Focus App

