

▪ **Online Kitchen Gardening Course** ▪

Department of Botany & Department of Rural Development, Br. Balasaheb Khardekar College, Vengurla, Community Development Centre, Shivaji University, Kolhapur & Gardens Club, Kolhapur togetherly organised 3 months free online course on "**Kitchen Gardening**". It was conducted in between **23rd July, 2020 to 29th October, 2020**. Total 14 sessions were taken on every thursdays at 01:00 pm to 02:00 pm through **Facebook Live** platform.

Composting, Garden tools, Container gardening, Plant nutrition, Floriculture, Garden pest control, Biopesticides, Terrace gardening, Hanging Gardening, Vegetable cultivation, Fruit cultivation, Aquatic plants, Indoor plants, Green entrepreneurship and all other important topics were covered in this course. **Dr. Manjusha Deshpande**, M.Sc., Ph.D., Research area : Human Migration was the chief speaker of the course with **Dr. Dhanashree Patil**, M.Sc., M.Phil., B.Ed., Ph.D., Research area : Botanical Biopesticides.

No.	Date	Topic	Speaker	Link
01.	23 Jul, 2020	Composting	Dr. Manjusha Deshpande	http://tiny.cc/em0zsz
02.	30 Jul, 2020	Garden Tools	Dr. Manjusha Deshpande	http://tiny.cc/hm0zsz
03.	06 Aug, 2020	Container Gardening	Dr. Manjusha Deshpande	http://tiny.cc/lm0zsz
04.	12 Aug, 2020	Plant Nutrition	Dr. Manjusha Deshpande	http://tiny.cc/nm0zsz
05.	20 Aug, 2020	Floriculture	Dr. Manjusha Deshpande	http://tiny.cc/pm0zsz , http://tiny.cc/rm0zsz
06.	03 Sep, 2020	Garden Pest Control	Dr. Manjusha Deshpande	http://tiny.cc/vm0zsz
07.	10 Sep, 2020	Biopesticides	Dr. Dhanashree Patil	http://tiny.cc/6991tz
08.	17 Sep, 2020	Terrace Gardening I	Dr. Manjusha Deshpande	http://tiny.cc/hn0zsz , http://tiny.cc/jn0zsz
09.	24 Sep, 2020	Terrace Gardening II	Dr. Manjusha Deshpande	http://tiny.cc/a791tz
10.	01 Oct, 2020	Hanging Gardening	Dr. Manjusha Deshpande	http://tiny.cc/qu0zsz
11.	09 Oct, 2020	Cruciferous Vegetables	Dr. Manjusha Deshpande	http://tiny.cc/s791tz
12.	15 Oct, 2020	Fruit Cultivation	Dr. Manjusha Deshpande	http://tiny.cc/y791tz
13.	23 Oct, 2020	Water Lilies & Indoor Plants	Dr. Manjusha Deshpande	http://tiny.cc/g891tz , http://tiny.cc/i891tz
14.	29 Oct, 2020	Green Entrepreneurship	Dr. Manjusha Deshpande	http://tiny.cc/t891tz

Around 1,300 participants from different localities of Maharashtra and around the world took active participation in this course. Participants were from various occupations like gardeners, teachers, students, working and business. Apart from lectures, 4 WhatsApp groups were formed to discuss and answer queries of the participants. On the day of last session, exam was taken on covered topics and online e-certificates were given to participants scoring 50% of marks. Also feedback was taken through feedback forms.

"It was important to keep yourself happy and energized during the lockdown period. Educational institutions become the focal point of society in such a changing time. This three-month course, which guided 1300 participants from Maharashtra and whole country as well as abroad during the epidemic period of Covid-19, imparted knowledge of many skills for free of cost. The Kitchen garden is a green corner of everyone's heart that beautifully transforms a small piece of land, an enchanting way to beautify the earth, a scientific solution to waste management, a creative solution to reduce pollution and control carbon, a fragrant experiment in the kitchen & an experimental method of cultivating medicinal plants. Conservation of medicinal plants from the garden can be a big objective project. The Kitchen garden is a laboratory in everyone's yard. Organic toxin-free vegetables can be obtained by growing Kitchen gardens on a zero budget. On the occasion of this course, like-minded, green-minded government employees, teachers, students, doctors, lawyers, professors, architects, etc. from different cities also made friends by interacting with each other. Phone calls and messages of appreciation and joy from various places with great sincerity satisfied the organizers."

- Dr. Dhanashree Patil
Course Coordinator,
Br. B. K. College, Vengurla

Dr. Manjusha Deshpande from Community Development Centre, Shivaji University, Kolhapur was the Convener of the course. **Dr. Dhanashree Patil**, Head, Department of Botany & **Prof. Vivek Chavan**, Head, Department of Rural Development were the course coordinators. Principal, **Dr. Vilas Dewoolkar**, Br. Balasaheb Khardekar College, Vengurla & President, **Mrs. Kalpana Savant**, Gardens Club, Kolhapur guided in the smooth conduct of this course. Covid pandemic was a challenge to communicate and conduct a course. Setting and sending link through WhatsApp groups, taking online registration, exam, feedbacks, arranging e-certificates and solving connectivity problems was handled by volunteers **Ms. Vedashree Chavan & Mr. Nitin Kawthankar**.