



Spring 2018 Home Horticulture Program - Syllabus

Week 1: BOTANY

This class will help you understand plant structure and how they function in their environment, their needs for light, nutrients and water, how they reproduce, how pesticides and diseases impact the plant and why you should use particular practices for planting, pruning, harvesting, etc.

Week 2: NOMENCLATURE

Many gardeners, even experienced ones, feel confused when botanical names are being bandied about. Botanical names serve several important purposes, and understanding them can tell you a lot about the plant you are working with. In this class we will show you how to understand a plant's botanical name, and discuss strategies for learning them over time. We'll explore botanical nomenclature (the way plant names are organized) in a manner that is accessible and easy to understand, so that you can feel confident the next time you find yourself face to face with a two part Latin name!

Week 3: SOIL

There is no such thing as a great garden without great soil. So what *is* soil? And how do you *get* great soil? We'll look at soil. We'll talk about compost. And we'll tell you how to make your soil great, and keep it that way.

Week 4: VEGETABLE CULTURE

You don't need a big yard with long straight rows to grow vegetables! Vegetable gardening can be part of almost any home garden. We'll look at different types and methods of vegetable culture and discuss layout, variety choices, and growing techniques.

Week 5: PERENNIALS

This class will cover perennial plant selection; defining cultural needs and site evaluations. It will look at zone hardiness and micro climates and how they affect perennials. The class will also cover perennial care – watering, fertilizing, deadheading and dividing. Gardens with natives as well as pollinator, butterfly and wildlife gardens will also be included.

Week 6: LAWN CARE & ALTERNATIVES

A look at the making of a healthy lawn by eliminating the "steps" and working on the fundamentals, as well as examining other options for use of your space beyond turf.

Week 7: WOODY PLANTS & PRUNING

This class will provide a discussion of the different types of woody plants, their architecture and growth habits and how to plant them properly. It will also show you all the reasons you might want to prune your woody plants and how (and when) to prune them properly. We will also discuss techniques and tools to make you a successful caretaker of your woody plants.

Week 8: WEED ECOLOGY

This class will discuss the different types of common weeds and how their growth habits (and thus treatment approaches) differ. It will explain how to identify the weeds in your yard so you can create a successful management approach. And, best of all, it will show you the things you can do to help prevent weeds before they start or at least minimize any infestation.



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Week 9: MANAGING PLANT DISEASES & PESTS

This class will cover common plant diseases and take a look at common pests, both insect and animal, and how to treat them.

Week 10: LANDSCAPE DESIGN BASICS

Do you have the feeling that you should be planning your property, rather than just mowing it or buying whatever is in bloom? Now is the time to get started for this growing year! Enjoy some inspirational pictures and practical advice, whether you have a patio or an estate.