Why enroll in the Certificate in Native Plants?

Have you ever wondered, “What is that plant?” Or have you yearned to know more about native plants or to participate in plant conservation activities but felt you “just didn’t know enough?” Have you considered a career in plant biology, ecology or conservation horticulture?

The Certificate in Native Plants program will provide you with basic knowledge and skills that dedicated amateurs and professionals need to know about native plants and their conservation. Even if you do not plan on a professional career in plant conservation, knowledge gained in this program will equip you to be a more effective advocate and volunteer in your community.

For additional information and applications, email sbgeduc@uga.edu or call 706-542-6156

Image credits: Hugh & Carol Nourse and Shannah Montgomery
The Certificate in Native Plants is...

Knowledge-based
Courses are taught by experts – university professors, conservation professionals and experienced field botanists who are dedicated to sharing their knowledge, experience and enthusiasm in a relaxed setting and accessible format.

Field-directed
Plan to get your hands dirty and your feet wet! All courses involve hands-on experience with plants and plant communities. Volunteer activities and field trips will help you learn by doing.

Conservation-oriented
We believe that the old saying “knowledge is power” applies to conservation. Once you know the basics of botany and plant conservation, you will be prepared and motivated to contribute to the conservation of Georgia’s flora and native plant habitats.

Learner-friendly
Students may take as long as needed to complete the program. Courses are offered so the program can be completed in as little time as one year. Classes may be taken in any order (with few exceptions) and at your own pace.

Certificate Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Core courses</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Electives</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Field trips</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer service</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 Core courses – 8 hours each
Fee: $105 per course (10% off for Friends)
- Basic Botany
- Plant Taxonomy
- Natural Communities of Georgia
- Plant Conservation

6 Elective courses – 4 hours each*
Fee: $50 per course (10% off for Friends)
Participants choose six courses from a wide range of elective course offerings.
*Some classes may exceed four hours in length

16 hours of volunteer service
Participants complete 16 hours of volunteer service with a conservation organization.

2 field trips
Participants complete two half-day field trips organized by the Georgia Botanical Society, Georgia Native Plant Society or another approved organization.

$30 registration fee
Participants must pay an initial $30 registration fee.

Completion of this program awards 6 Continuing Education Units (CEU) through the University of Georgia.

2023 Schedule

CORE CLASSES
Natural Communities (V), Feb. 6, 8, 15
Plant Taxonomy (V), April 1, 3, 4
Plant Conservation (V), Aug. 12, 15
Basic Botany (V), Nov. 11, 13

ELECTIVES
Winter Tree Identification, Jan. 28
Survival Systems of Plants (V), Feb. 4
Native Plant Symposium, Feb. 22
Soils of the Piedmont & Beyond, March 11
Spring Wildflowers, March 25
Ethnobotany of Native Plants*, Medicine Bow Wilderness Center, May 11
Summer Tree Identification, June 3
Plant Propagation*, Chattahoochee Nature Center, June 10
Bee-utiful World of Native Bees*, Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center, June 16
Native Ferns of North Georgia, June 24
Carnivorous Plants*, Chattahoochee Nature Center, July 15
Medicinal Plants (V), July 22
Native Plants & Insect Pollinators*, Chattahoochee Nature Center, Aug. 19
Fall Wildflowers, Sept. 9
Fungal Ecology & Diversity, Sept. 15
Warm Season Grasses, Oct. 7
Planting Design for the Sustainable Landscape, Oct. 13
Plants We Love to Hate, Oct. 14
Groundcover Restoration*, Gaskins Forest Education Center, Oct. 28

Note:
*locations other than the State Botanical Garden of Georgia
(V) virtual (online) classes