Why enroll in the Certificate in Native Plants program?

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.

The State Botanical Garden of Georgia at the University of Georgia is a “living laboratory” for university students and faculty who utilize the collections and natural plant communities for studies in a variety of disciplines. This facility is also a public space for enjoyment by anyone who finds beauty, knowledge and peace in a garden.

Classes offered in partnership with:

Medicine Bow Wilderness School

Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center

Gaskins Forest Education Center

Chattahoochee Nature Center

The Certificate in Native Plants offers committed individuals a comprehensive series of short courses in identification, cultivation, propagation, ecology and conservation of native Georgia plants. With an emphasis on participatory learning, courses are designed to provide a supportive and challenging learning atmosphere. Participants will gain a greater appreciation and understanding of native plants in a broad context.

An education initiative of:
The State Botanical Garden of Georgia
and
The Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance

To register for classes, visit: botgarden.uga.edu
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.

### 2024 Schedule

6 Continuing Education Units (CEU) available through the University of Georgia

**CORE CLASSES**
- Plant Taxonomy (V), April 13, 15, 16
- Plant Conservation (V), Aug. 10, 13
- Basic Botany (V), Nov. 9, 12

**ELECTIVES**
- Winter Tree Identification, Jan. 27
- Native Plant Propagation, Feb. 2
- Native Plant Symposium, Feb. 15
- Spring Wildflowers of Upland Deciduous Forests, March 16
- Spring Wildflowers of the Granite Outcrops*, Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve, March 21
- Soils of the Georgia Piedmont & Beyond, March 23
- Ethnobotany of Native Plants*, Medicine Bow Wilderness School, May 9
- Introduction to Graminoid ID, May 11
- Carnivorous Plants, June 1
- Native Ferns of the Georgia Piedmont, June 2
- The Bee-utiful World of Native Bees*, Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center, June 7

**Certificate Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Courses</td>
<td>32 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>24 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trips</td>
<td>8 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Service</td>
<td>16 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>80 hours</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 4 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 to cover cost of class materials.

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