

The State Botanical Garden of Georgia at The University of Georgia Plants & Pollinators Specialization (PPS) Program -- 2025 Schedule

Planning for Pollinators: Their Biology and Habitat Requirements

Friday, Apr. 11

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Rachel Hughes, lecturer, Biology, University of North Georgia

Kevin Turner, professional horticulturalist

Virtual program

<https://t.uga.edu/6wi>

Have you heard the buzz? Pollinators are in decline and need our help. One way to support local pollinators is to incorporate native plants into your garden. In this class, you will learn about the importance of pollinators in our environment, their interaction with native plants and how to provide space for these important creatures through garden landscaping. This course will provide an overview of some basic insect biology and explain the ecology of why insects are critical to the environment and society. You will also learn about the native plants that you can plant to attract your local pollinators and how you can keep those plants healthy and arrange them beautifully in your garden design. Come learn about these cool bugs and see what you can do to transform your garden into a native pollinator habitat. **This class consists of two elements: a pre-recorded, asynchronous video and a three-hour zoom session.**

Entomology for Gardeners: Identifying & Understanding Common Backyard Arthropods

Saturday, Apr. 26

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Scott Clem, PhD, assistant professor of ecology, Illinois State University

Virtual program

<https://t.uga.edu/9ze>

In this course, you will learn how to identify common arthropods (i.e. insects and arachnids) that are commonly encountered in Georgia gardens. This class will equip you with the necessary knowledge and tools for distinguishing beneficial insects from those which are potentially harmful to the local ecosystem. As a participant in this course, you will also learn about common invasive and introduced arthropods as well as simple methods for improving arthropod biodiversity.

Insect Pollinators in Our Gardens

Tuesday, June 3

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Paola Barriga, Faculty, academic professional, UGA Department of Plant Biology

Virtual program

<https://t.uga.edu/6Pd>

This course is designed to allow participants to evaluate plant-insect interactions in gardens from an ecological perspective. For instance, we will be focusing on the importance of maintaining plant and insect pollinator diversity and on the ecological factors that may influence this outcome. Among the factors that will be discussed in this course are the role of disease and pesticides on pollinator's survival and how these factors could interact with plant species and produce certain outcomes.

Connect to Protect Leadership Workshop

Friday, Aug. 15

9 - 1 p.m.

Heather Alley, conservation horticulturist, State Botanical Garden of Georgia of Georgia

Jason Young, director of horticulture and grounds, State Botanical Garden of Georgia

State Botanical Garden Visitor Center, classroom 2

<https://t.uga.edu/6wj>

Join our conservation horticulturist, Heather Alley, and director of horticulture and grounds, Jason Young, for a training workshop on the specialized native plant garden program known as Connect to Protect (CtoP). In this class, you will learn the Connect to Protect philosophy and master both the educational goals and the gardening for biodiversity methods of this program. Educational outcomes of this course will include choosing appropriate native plant species, essential maintenance and dynamic curricula to create gorgeous, biodiversity-supporting gardens. Learn the steps it takes to become a CtoP leader and an ambassador of gardening for wildlife! Class time will be spent both indoors and outside hiking in the garden. Dress for outdoor conditions and a walk around the garden.

Grow Your Own Prairie in North Georgia

Saturday, Oct. 25

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Karin Hicks, Georgia master gardener and master naturalist

State Botanical Garden Visitor Center, classroom 2

<https://t.uga.edu/6gf>

Prairies, meadows, savannas and woodlands were once an integral part of Georgia's piedmont and mountain ecoregions. These habitats have nearly disappeared, but are now being restored and re-created by gardeners, ecologists and landscapers. This class will teach you the basics of creating a prairie on your property, including site analysis, species selection and habitat management. Class time will be divided between classroom lecture and a field trip to the prairie at the State Botanical Garden. Karin will share her experience cultivating and managing 10 acres of meadow, forest and natural garden in North Georgia, where she encourages wildlife to come and live.

For more information, email: sbgeduc@uga.edu

To register online, visit www.botgarden.uga.edu/events



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