

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 plant 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.

Classes offered in partnership with:



Medicine Bow Wilderness School



Georgia Mountain Research
and Education Center
College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



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.

Certificate in Native Plants

2026

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***

2450 S. Milledge Avenue
Athens, Ga. 30605

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



State Botanical Garden of Georgia
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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 saying “knowledge is power” applies to conservation. Once you know the basics of botany and plant conservation, you will be more 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 a few exceptions) and at your own pace.

Certificate Requirements

4 core courses	32 hours
6 electives	24 hours
2 field trips	8 hours
Volunteer service	16 hours
TOTAL	80 hours

2026 Class Schedule

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

CORE CLASSES

- Plant Taxonomy (V), **March**
- Natural Communities (V), **July 14, 16, 20**
- Plant Conservation (V), **Aug. 8, 11**
- Basic Botany (V), **Oct./Nov.**

4 core courses – 8 hours each

Fee: \$120 per course (10% off for Friends)

- Basic Botany
- Plant Taxonomy
- Natural Communities of Georgia
- Plant Conservation

6 elective courses – 4 hours each*

Fee: \$65 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 conservation organization.

\$30 registration fee

Participants must pay an initial \$30 registration fee to cover the cost of class materials.

ELECTIVES

- Winter Tree Identification, **Feb. 7**
- Native Plant Propagation, **Feb. 13**
- Native Plant Symposium, **Feb. 25**
- Soils of the Georgia Piedmont & Beyond, **March 7**
- Spring Wildflowers of Upland Deciduous Forests, **March 21**
- Spring Wildflowers of the Granite Outcrops*, Davidson–Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve, **April 1**
- Entomology for Gardeners (V), **April 18**
- Ethnobotany of Native Plants*, Medicine Bow Wilderness School, **May 7**
- Native Ferns of North Georgia, **May 9**
- Introduction to Graminoid ID, **May 30**
- Our Native Pollinators*, Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center, **June 5**
- Carnivorous Plants, **June 6**
- Advanced Native Ferns of North Georgia, **June 13**
- Insect Pollinators in Our Gardens (V), **June 16**
- Summer Tree Identification, **June 27**
- Connect to Protect Leadership Workshop, **Aug. 14**
- Ethnobotany of Native Plants*, Medicine Bow Wilderness School, **Sept. 3**
- Fall Wildflowers of the Georgia Piedmont, **Sept. 12**
- Fall Wildflowers of the Granite Outcrops*, Davidson–Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve, **Sept. 18**
- Monarchs & Beyond, **Sept. 19**
- Plants We Love to Hate, **Oct. 3**
- Fungal Ecology & Diversity, **Oct. 10**
- Warm–Season Grasses, **Oct. 17**
- Grow Your Own Prairie, **Oct. 24**
- Invasive Plant Control Strategies (V), **Nov. 14**

Note:

* - locations other than the State Botanical Garden of Georgia
(V) - virtual (online) classes
This schedule is subject to change.