

## Horticulture Certificate Program 2021/2022

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### Dates to Note

**Fall Core Curriculum Courses: Tuesdays, September 7 - December 21**

**Winter/Spring Core Curriculum Courses: January 8 - April 12**

**Winter Break: Feb 22 - March 1, 2022**

**Graduation: May 1, 2022**

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### Fall 2021 Core Curriculum

#### **Herbaceous Plants |IN-PERSON AT BBG| Tuesdays, September 7 - 28, 5:30 - 8:30 pm**

This intensive four-session class led by **Lee Buttala** explores the world of herbaceous plants, from their identification, selection and use in the garden through their basic botany, life cycle, and propagation. Participants are asked to create a final project highlighting a genus or plant family related to the curriculum. A part of the Level 1 horticulture core curriculum, this class is essential for the committed gardener and includes lectures, hands-on activities and field study, and group discussion. The class aspires to give participants a deeper understanding of annuals, perennials, and ornamental vegetables and their role in the garden. Students should dress for outdoor field study. **Lee Buttala** is the former Executive Director of Seed Savers Exchange, an heirloom vegetable genebank that is the only non-governmental organization storing seed at the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. He has also worked for BBG and the Garden Conservancy, and currently serves as chair of the Historic Landscapes Committee of the APGA. Lee won an Emmy award for his role as a garden television producer for *Martha Stewart Living* and was the creator of PBS's *Cultivating Life*. He is the editor of the award-winning book, *The Seed Garden: The Art and Practice of Saving Seed*, writes a weekly garden column for the *Berkshire Edge* and serves on the board of Hollister House Garden in Washington, CT. Lee studied garden design at the Chelsea Physic Garden, the New York Botanical Garden and the Kyoto School of Art and Design. He lives in Ashley Falls, MA.

#### **Understanding Woody Plants |IN-PERSON AT BBG | Tuesdays, Oct 5 - 26, 5:30 - 8:30 pm.**

Taught by **Jenna O'Brien**, this four-session course will focus on the bones of the garden with a survey of ornamental woody plants for residential landscape design. It will cover ornamental shrubs, small flowering trees, shade trees and broadleaf and needle evergreens. Students will become familiar with the many garden-worthy woody plants that thrive in Zone 5. The course covers plant ID, selection, siting, cultivation and possible design uses. **Jenna O'Brien**, owner and founder of Viridissima Horticulture & Design since 2003, has been working in Berkshire gardens for over 20 years. Jenna specializes in container gardening, perennial garden design and care and estate garden and conservatory management.

**Understanding Soil Health and Structure | IN-PERSON AT BBG | Tuesdays, 5:30 - 8:30 pm, November 2 - 23.** Taught by **John Howell**, this four-session course will explain how plant growth is affected by soils, from drainage to pH and nutrients. Learn how to evaluate soils, improve those that are less than ideal and amend soils for specific garden uses. Fertilizers, soil amendments, making and using compost, moisture management and the pros and cons of mulching will be covered. Students need to get a soil sample before class and bring the results to the first class. **John Howell** MS is the former Extension Vegetable Specialist for the University of Massachusetts and currently lectures on vegetables, fruits and soil management. Author of numerous newsletters for growers, he is currently the editor for *New England Vegetable Management Guide*, published biennially by the University of Massachusetts.

**Plant Healthcare | IN-PERSON AT BBG | Tuesdays, November 30 - December 21, 5:30 - 8:30 pm.** Led by **Ken Gooch**, this program focuses on factors that affect plant health care, including insects, diseases, pathogens and abiotic influences. Basic diagnostic techniques will be taught. Learn to minimize potential problems through proper site preparation, plant selection and placement. Managing problems using biological, chemical, and cultural techniques will be discussed with a focus on integrated pest management. **Ken Gooch** is the former Forest Health Program Director for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Additionally, he is a Massachusetts Certified Arborist and teaches arboriculture at the Garden.

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### **Horticulture Certificate Garden Practicums Fall 2021**

The Garden Practicum reinforces classroom work with hands-on experience in the garden. Students are required to complete **15 practicum hours** between September and April to complete the level I Horticulture Certificate. The ( ) preceding each description notes the number of qualifying hours for each practicum. Additional practicum options will be added for the Winter and Spring of 2022. Students may purchase additional practicum hours if desired.

**(4.5) Field Survey of Grassland Meadows. Saturday, September 16, 9 am - 2 pm.** This field class led by **Ted Elliman** will explore the colorful variety of meadow flora that comes into its own in late summer and early fall. In the field, we will observe and identify late-season grasses (which include such species as little bluestem, purple lovegrass, Indian grass, and switchgrass) and fall-blooming wildflowers such as asters, goldenrods, Joe-Pye weeds, and many others. Our explorations will include both upland and wetland meadow communities. **Ted Elliman** worked for many years for Native Plant Trust as a staff botanist, invasive species program manager, and instructor of botany, ecology, and conservation classes. His book, *The Wildflowers of New England*, an identification guide to the region's native flora, was published in 2016 by Timber Press. In the 1980's, Ted started and directed an environmental education and wilderness adventure center in the Berkshires. Since the mid-1990's, he has periodically led natural history tours to southwest China, where he worked for two years as a teacher and forest ecologist.

**(2) Overwintering Your Plants. Saturday, September 18, 11 am - 1 pm.** At the end of the summer, what do you do with all those special patio plants that you have fussed over for the summer months? This class will give gardeners tricks of the trade to protect their tender perennials, house plants, woody potted specimens and succulent collections and encourage them to thrive during the winter season. Taught by **Jenna O'Brien**, topics of this class will include cultivation, fertilizing, watering and healthcare. Learn by doing and take home some plant companions.

**(1) Defeating Japanese Knotweed on the Wild and Scenic Housatonic River. Saturday, September 25, 10 am - 11 am.** This lecture by exhibiting artist and environmental activist Tom Zetterstrom illustrates cooperative efforts by the Housatonic Valley Association, Housatonic River Commission, and the Knotweed Network, to eradicate highly invasive knotweed thickets, and restore the rich diversity of native riparian ecosystems along the wild and scenic Housatonic in Northwest Connecticut.

**(1.5) Peony Propagation. Saturday, October 2, 2 - 3:30 pm.** Join **Dan Furman** of Cricket Hill Garden for an in-depth presentation and demonstration on all aspects of peony propagation. The workshop will begin with a slide talk giving an overview of the world of peonies, followed by a demonstration of dividing an herbaceous peony as well as grafting a tree peony. Growing peonies from seed will also be discussed and demonstrated. Participants will be given a pack of peony seeds to sow in their own gardens. This is a workshop for all who love peonies and want to learn how to make more! **Dan Furman** is a second-generation peony grower at Cricket Hill Garden in Thomaston, CT. Since joining the business in 2010, he has worked to expand the peony hybridization and production programs at the nursery. In addition to peonies, he is interested in growing pawpaws, persimmons, Asian pears, and other unusual fruits in Northwestern Connecticut.

**(5.5) Goldenrod and Asters Field Study. Saturday, October 2, 9 am - 3 pm.** In late summer and early fall, asters and goldenrods come into their own. In this class taught by **Ted Elliman**, a morning discussion will include a presentation of many of Berkshire County's asters and goldenrods, focusing on their identification features and discussing their characteristic habitats. In the afternoon, we'll explore nearby natural areas to observe and identify the asters and goldenrods growing in meadows, woodlands and wetlands, examining the differences that characterize these species. A hand lens is recommended. We will travel by BBG's passenger van. Please dress for the weather and bring a bagged lunch. **Ted Elliman** has worked for the Native Plant Trust as a staff botanist, invasive species program manager and instructor of botany, ecology and conservation classes. His book, *The Wildflowers of New England*, an identification guide to the region's native flora, was published in 2016 by Timber Press.

**(2) Protecting Specimen Trees and Standing Forests from Asiatic Bittersweet. Saturday, October 9, 11 am - 1 pm.** Bittersweet, the tree-killing vine, can undo a century of forest succession in a generation by encapsulating and collapsing trees, resulting in dramatic reduction of carbon sequestration and ecosystem services. Learn how land trusts, parks and campuses are efficiently and effectively defeating invasive vines and shrubs, and restoring inherent beauty and balance to natural areas. The lecture will be followed by a hands-on field demonstration of cut-and-treat as well as additional control methods.

**(3) Onsite Vegetable Garden End of Season Care with BBG's Horticulture Team. October 13, 9 am - 12 pm**

Join the BBG horticulture staff as they put the vegetable gardens to bed for the winter. This entire practicum will be held outside and is only offered to horticulture certificate students. Tools will be provided, but bring your own work gloves, comfortable shoes, and other appropriate clothing for the day's weather.

**(3) Botanical Names for the Fearful. Wednesdays, October 13 - 20, 5:30 - 7 pm.** In this two-session course offered on Zoom and led by **Judith Sumner**, we will begin with a tour of the plant kingdom with attention to plant names and their history. We'll explore the work of Linnaeus and the origin of botanical binomials — the naming system in place since 1753 — and decode the Latin and Greek roots that occur commonly in plant names. Illustrated lectures will weave botanical nomenclature with science, exploration, history, and the state of modern plant names, from the ancient Doctrine of Signatures to modern DNA analysis. We'll also discuss why names sometimes change (Hint: not to vex gardeners!). Visuals will include both familiar plants and some that are quite rare, accompanied by explanation and decoding of their botanical names. An opportunity to gain confidence in dealing with scientific plant names, we will examine several techniques for learning names with ease, and the course will conclude with a collaborative "quiz" to pool our collective knowledge. Participants will receive two recent articles written by Judith Sumner on Linnaean history and the useful details of botanical nomenclature.

**(2) Cultivating Mushrooms at Home: Winecaps, Oysters and Shiitakes. Saturday, October 16, 10 am - 12 pm.** Come explore the fascinating realm of growing mushrooms with **Willie Crosby** of Fungi Ally. Learn about the basic mushroom life cycle and the important ecological roles that fungi fill. The discussion will focus on several different methods of mushroom cultivation on wood, including shiitake on logs, oysters on totems and wine cap mushrooms on wood chips. Leave with the tools and knowledge to start cultivating mushrooms in your garden! All participants will take home an inoculated log that will produce mushrooms for years to come.

**(2) Right Tree, Right Place. Saturday, October 16, 1 - 3 pm** Trees can define a garden, but their siting and placement can confound gardeners, particularly when smaller specimens are being planted. This class, taught by **Lee Buttala**, examines the root structures, growth habits, and the mature size of a range of species and varieties, large and small, for use in the residential landscape. Attendees will walk away with a new approach to selecting woody plants that will provide their gardens with desired structure and form throughout the years, while taking into consideration underplanting and the tree's harmonious coexistence with other garden features and elements in the ever-evolving landscape. This class hopes to prevent gardeners from needing to remove maturing trees because they were planted in the wrong place, by demonstrating how better siting or selection (or regular pruning or training) can allow these coveted plants to mature in the garden.

**(1) Marketing your Gardening Business. Wednesday, October 27, 4 - 5 pm. ONLINE.** Join **Lindsey Schmid**, Vice President of Tourism and Marketing, and Senior Marketing Specialist **Elizabeth Nelson** of 1Berkshire, to learn the best ways to market your business online. With so many platforms, the choices can be overwhelming. Lindsey and Elizabeth present some options and help you find a method that works best for you and your business. Special focus will be given to capturing your authentic voice and the regional identity of our beautiful Berkshires. This program is offered free of charge and sponsored by 1Berkshire. To learn more about all of the ways 1Berkshire supports economic development in our region [click here](#) and to learn more about how 1Berkshire markets the Berkshires [click here](#).

**(2) Elm Cultivar Research and Structural Pruning. Saturday, October 30, 10 am - 12 pm.** This program includes a lecture led by **Tom Zetterstrom** for arborists, tree wardens, horticulturalists, and the public, and would be followed by a demonstration pruning of the BBG Princeton American Elm by **Kieran Yapple** of Race Mountain Tree Service. The lecture reviews seven generations of elm research dating back from the 1930's to the current research projects of the USDA Northern Research Station and the National Arboretum.

**(1.5) Digging Dahlias. Saturday, November 6, 11 am - 12:30 pm.** These tender perennials are garden stars, but left in the ground they won't last through a New England winter. With a few tricks, you can preserve and multiply your dahlias, enjoying them for years to come! BBG faculty member Jenna O'Brien will guide students through digging, cleaning, division, and overwintering techniques. She'll also share insights on a few of her favorite varieties. This is a hands-on workshop; students are encouraged to bring their own clippers, and are welcome to bring dahlia tubers from home!

**(5) 7th Annual Rooted in Place Ecological Gardening Symposium. Sunday, November 14, 10 am - 4 pm. GROWING RESILIENCE: THE CLIMATE CRISIS, OUR GARDENS AND COMMUNITIES**

**Featuring: Rebecca McMackin.** Rebecca McMackin is an ecologically obsessed horticulturist. She is Director of Horticulture at Brooklyn Bridge Park where she oversees 85 acres of diverse parkland. These meadows, forests, salt marshes and freshwater wetlands are managed with the dual purposes of cultivating, beautifying and encouraging biodiversity, all within the largest city in the country. In her imaginary free time, Rebecca lectures, writes, and designs the occasional garden. Her writing has been published in *The New York Times*, the Landscape Institute, and the Ecological Landscape Alliance. Her presentation at Rooted in Place will focus on the many ecological strategies employed by Brooklyn Bridge Park's staff to develop and cultivate biodiversity, including pragmatic strategies for encouraging ecologically beneficial landscapes.

**Sam Hoadley:** Sam Hoadley is the Horticultural Research Manager at Mt. Cuba Center. His work includes evaluating native plant species, old and new cultivars, as well as hybrids in Mt. Cuba's Trial Garden. Using data collected and analyzed over a three-year period, a research report is published outlining top-performing plants for the Mid-Atlantic region. This information is designed to inform consumers and home gardeners as well as professionals in the horticultural and nursery industries about the ecological benefits and attributes of the native plants in our trials. His presentation will focus on knockout native species and cultivars researched at the Mt. Cuba Center. Sam received a degree in Sustainable Landscape Horticulture from the University of Vermont.

**Pete Grima:** Pete Grima is a Service Forester with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation covering northern Berkshire County, where he helps landowners make informed decisions about their forests. He is also an avid botanist responsible for many new and novel botanical discoveries in the Berkshires, and he is a co-author of the recently published *Vascular Flora of Franklin County, Massachusetts*. Using a recent landowner interaction from his Service Forestry work as a case study, Pete's presentation will describe the process of envisioning a future forest to be planted in an old field, with a mind towards carbon storage and climate resilience.

**Jennifer Jewell:** Jennifer Jewell's presentation, "How a Place-based Garden Culture of Care Strengthens Places and their People," explores the philosophy of the *Cultivating Place* podcast that gardens/gardeners are powerful spaces and agents for potentially positive change in our world and help to address challenges as wide ranging as climate change, resource use, habitat and biodiversity loss, cultural polarization/marginalization, and individual and communal health. Jennifer is the host of the national, award-winning weekly public radio program and podcast *Cultivating Place: Conversations on Natural History and the Human Impulse to Garden*. She is the author of award-winning *The Earth in Her Hands, 75 Extraordinary Women Working in the World of Plants* (Timber Press in 2020), and *Under Western Skies, Visionary Gardens from the Rockies to the Pacific Coast* (due out from Timber Press in April 2021). Her greatest passion is elevating the way we think and talk about gardening, the empowerment of gardeners, and the possibility inherent in the intersections between our places, our cultures, and our gardens.

**(2) Winter Wow: Beautiful Containers for the Colder Months. Saturday, November 20, 1 - 3 pm.** Winter approaches but this doesn't mean your window boxes or containers need to spend the next four months filled with the skeletons of long-dead plants. Instead, you can compost those spent annuals and fill the void with a variety of options from classic to contemporary. Deborah Trickett, whose business *The Captured Garden* is all about keeping container gardens appealing in all seasons, will share creative ideas to carry you through the holidays to spring. Award-winning container garden designer **Deborah Trickett** has worked in the gardening industry for over 30 years, starting with her first job in a greenhouse at age 13 until the present as the owner of *The Captured Garden*. Deborah works with clients throughout New England who want their homes to be beautiful, not typical. By combining unusual plant material and creative design ideas she creates gardens and containers that are truly one of a kind. Deborah Trickett is a Massachusetts Certified Horticulturist and Landscape Professional. She is a frequent lecturer on creative container gardening, speaking at regional Flower Shows. She has also shared her passion for perennials at the Perennial Plant Association Annual Symposium; was a featured speaker at the Grand Garden Show on Mackinac Island; and teaches at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston. Her work has been featured in *The Boston Globe*, *The American Gardener*, *Garden Gate* and *New England Home* magazines as well as on the TV show *New England Dream Home*. Deborah's work can also be viewed at [www.thecapturedgarden.com](http://www.thecapturedgarden.com).

**(6) Beginners Chainsaw Skills Workshop. Sunday, November 28, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm** Learn to use a chainsaw safely! Taught by arborist Melissa LeVangie Ingersoll, this workshop is designed for the novice-to-beginner chainsaw operator who wishes to gain greater confidence with this powerful tool. The class will combine lecture and hands-on learning, covering topics such as personal protective equipment, the anatomy of a chainsaw, reactive forces, basic chainsaw maintenance and additional tools for use with a chainsaw. Techniques will include holding and starting a saw, hazard ID, escape options, log analysis (binds), planning cuts, overall plan and bucking and limbing. Attendees will cut logs on the ground and/or elevated on sawhorses and will leave with a better understanding of the safety features of a chainsaw and be able to operate a chainsaw based on safety fundamentals. No experience necessary. Note: Equipment will be provided; if you have your own chainsaw or personal protective equipment, please bring it with you. Dress and prepare for the weather including long sleeves, pants and boots. Bring a bag lunch. Instructor: Melissa LeVangie, Certified Arborist (MCA, ISA, NH) CTSP

**(6) Women's' Chainsaw Skills Workshop. On-site. Saturday, December 11, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm (\$50 fee)** Are you interested in learning to use a chainsaw but feel intimidated to do so? Led by arborist **Melissa LeVangie Ingersoll**, this workshop is designed for the novice-to-beginner chainsaw operator who wishes to gain greater confidence with this powerful tool. The class combines lecture and hands-on learning and covers topics including personal protective equipment, the anatomy of a chainsaw, reactive forces, basic chainsaw maintenance and additional tools for use with a chainsaw. Techniques will include holding and starting a saw, hazard ID, escape options, log analysis (binds), planning cuts, overall plan and bucking and limbing. Attendees will cut logs on the ground and/or elevated on sawhorses and will leave with a better understanding of the safety features of a chainsaw and be able to operate a chainsaw based on safety fundamentals. No experience necessary. Note: Equipment will be provided; if you have your own chainsaw or personal protective equipment, please bring it with you. Dress

and prepare for the weather including long sleeves, pants and boots. Bring a bag lunch.  
Instructor: Melissa LeVangie, Certified Arborist (MCA, ISA, NH) CTSP

**(1)BBG's Annual Winter Lecture. Saturday, February 19. Edwina von Gal: Principal Landscape Designer, Edwina von Gal + Co. Founder / President, Perfect Earth Project**

Principal of her eponymous landscape design firm since 1984, Edwina von Gal creates landscapes with a focus on simplicity and sustainability for private and public clients around the world. She has collaborated with noted architects such as Maya Lin (The Wave Field/Storm King, Smith College, Oberlin College), Frank Gehry (Biomuseo Panama), Annabelle Selldorf, and Toshiko Mori, on projects for Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren, Richard Serra, Larry Gagosian, Robert De Niro, Jann Wenner and many others in the environmental, design and art communities. Her work has been published in major publications. Her book *Fresh Cuts* won the Quill and Trowel award for garden writing.

**(3) Grafting For the Home Gardener. March 5. Time TBD.** Come join **Broken Arrow Nurseries grafting** guru Adam Wheeler for a hands-on workshop that explores the world of **grafting**. After a lecture that explores the methods and intricacies of this time-tested craft, participants will put their newfound knowledge to work by **grafting** a few specimens of their own.