

Horticulture Certificate Program
Berkshire Botanical Garden
Garden Practicum Fall 2022 Schedule (plus tentative Spring 2023)

This practicum will complement classroom work through hands-on training in the garden. Work alongside garden staff and other garden professionals practicing gardening techniques; usually beginning with a demonstration and instruction, activities include propagation, transplanting, tree care, pruning, dividing, planting, cultivation and maintenance of annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees. Students need to complete 15 hours of work scheduled on Saturdays and/or weekdays throughout the year. Students are expected to track their hours over the course of the year.

Email Bridgette Stone at bstone@berkshirebotanical.org to register.

Program Dates to Note

Fall Core Curriculum Courses: Tuesdays, September 6 - December 20

Winter/Spring Core Curriculum Courses: January 7 - April 25

Winter Break: Feb 22 - March 1, 2022

Graduation: May 7, 2023

Fall 2022 Practicum Offerings

Planting and Stewarding Native Meadows: An Intensive One-Day Workshop with Larry Weaner
Saturday, Sept. 17, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (5 hours)

Demand for native meadows, particularly as an alternative to lawn, is increasing dramatically. That said, few planting types are more misunderstood. Many failures result from inadequate planning and management, as well as from the use of plants that are poorly adapted to the site and unable to survive in a highly competitive meadow environment.

Far better results can be obtained when the plants and processes used reflect the ecological character of our native meadow communities. More than one-year wonders, meadows modeled on these ecosystems can provide long-term, easily managed landscapes that harbor a myriad of wildlife and provide color and texture throughout the year. The program will begin with landscape designer Larry Weaner discussing the design, implementation and management of native meadows on a variety of scales and in residential and public settings. The remainder of the day will include viewing on-property meadows, including a meadow-in-progress and an area with high potential for a future meadow planting

Overwintering Your Plants | Saturday, Sept. 17, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (3 hours)

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**, the class will include cultivation, fertilizing, watering, and healthcare. Learn by doing, and take home some plant companions.

The Art of Planting Bulbs. Saturday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m. to noon (3 hours)

For many gardeners, nothing is more fulfilling than planting bulbs in the fall for spring bloom. In this class, garden writer and horticulturist Lee Buttala plumbs the depths of the geophyte kingdom, highlighting major and minor bulbs, from snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils to species tulips, hyacinths and fritillaria, that bring the spring garden into full focus. This class explores not only the classic techniques for using bulbs in the garden, but it also shows new approaches that pair bulbs with perennials and other plantings that complement them or that take the main stage as the bulb show comes to an end. This class will explore planting methods, post-bloom care for bulbs and how to select varieties best suited to naturalizing.

Identifying Invasive Plants in the Landscape. Saturday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (5 hours)

This class will focus on the identification features, ecological impacts and population trends of many of the invasive trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous plants that grow in forests, fields and wetlands in Berkshire County. The class will include a morning presentation and an afternoon in the field investigating invasives in a variety of habitats. We will look at both widespread and less common species of invasives.

Fall Pruning. Saturday, Oct. 1, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (3 hours)

Autumn is a great time to assess your woody plants for shape, structure and health. This demonstration/workshop will focus on pruning, including when, why and how to shape, renovate, train, or rejuvenate your woody plants. Learn about pruning tools, timing and specific techniques available to the home gardener. Pruning techniques for both evergreen and deciduous hedges will be covered. Dress to be outside, and bring pruners.

Seed Saving. Sunday, Oct 16, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (3 hours)

Have you ever wanted to collect seed from the garden to create more plants? This workshop, led by garden writers and horticulturists Lee Buttala and Shanyng Siegel, teaches gardeners everything they need to know in order to harvest and collect seed that they can then sow in the seasons ahead. This half-day workshop begins inside with a presentation on the rudiments of how plants create seed. (Plants set seed all on their own; the gardener only needs to facilitate this process and learn to identify the right moment to collect seed.) The workshop will include a review of basic collecting and cleaning practices for dry- and wet-fruited plants. After the presentation, attendees will head out into the garden to identify and collect ripe seed. The class then heads back inside where attendees will “get seedy” and learn to thresh and winnow dry-fruited species and how to clean and prepare wet-fruited seeds for future use. Participants will

walk away from the class not only with seeds in hand, but with a knowledge of how to isolate, identify and collect seeds of some of their favorite species and varieties of plants.

**Vegetable Garden End of Season. Wednesday, Oct. 12, 10 a.m. – noon
(3 hours)**

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.

**Preparing the Borders for Winter. Wednesday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. - noon
(3 hours)**

Work alongside the BBG horticulture staff as they prepare the garden borders 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.

Pruning Shrubs and Small Trees. Saturday, Oct. 26, 9:30 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. (3 hours)

Autumn is a great time to assess your woody plants for shape and structure. This demonstration/workshop taught by Ken Gooch will focus on pruning, including when, why and how to shape, renovate, train or rejuvenate your woody plants. Learn about pruning tools, timing and specific techniques available to the home gardener. Pruning techniques for both evergreen and deciduous hedges will be covered. Wear waterproof outerwear and boots and bring pruners.

8th Annual Rooted in Place: Seeding Community in the Garden. Sunday, Nov. 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (5 hours)

As gardeners, our work extends beyond the soil, rippling out to communities of every type. From our human neighbors, to pollinators and beyond, what and how we grow has an indelible effect on the world around us. This year, our Rooted in Place symposium speakers will consider the impacts of the way we garden on the world around us.

Page Dickey: Bringing Meadows into the Garden: With global warming and energy conservation in mind, let's cut down on mowing and blowing and replace some of our lawns with higher grass. Page will discuss a wide range of examples showing how beautifully meadows — however small — and meadow plants can be incorporated into our gardens.

Wambui Ippolito: Growing In Weeds: So many children grow up with sterile green spaces designed with their safety in mind — structured spaces that don't allow for exploration, imagination and the sense of danger that fuels curiosity. How can landscape designers, gardeners, parents, and communities approach design and create new spaces that bring a new vitality into children's green spaces? How do these spaces help our children to be emboldened explorers and better stewards of landscapes they inhabit?

Elijah Goodwin: Agriculture as Conservation: Lessons for the Landscape

Our increasingly complex and dire environmental challenges can't be met by wildland preservation alone. It has become abundantly clear that we must also radically change our approach to intensively human-managed landscapes. Since 2018, Stone Barns Center has been managing over 350 acres of former traditionally managed pasture land (now predominantly part of a state park preserve) using holistic regenerative methods focused around intensive, multi-species rotational livestock grazing. These efforts have been coupled with a comprehensive ecological monitoring program measuring responses in our soil health, plant biodiversity, bird biodiversity, insect biodiversity, and water quality. This presentation will share some of our preliminary discoveries from listening closely to the landscape and how those lessons could be applied by stewards of a variety of human-impacted landscapes, including the landscaping and gardening community.

Annie White: Ecosystem Approaches to Landscape Design: Building Resiliency Through Community:

Today's gardeners are faced with more challenges than ever before—a changing climate, more pressure from invasive plants and pests, and more decisions about what to put into and how to manage our landscapes. Annie White is striving to create a new culture of gardening where we move away from carefully curated gardens, work more with rather than against nature, and become better stewards of the ecosystems within and around our gardens. Annie will share her ecosystem approach to landscape design that helps build resiliency through community. Sharing case studies of her successes and failures, Annie's talk will open your eyes to the myriad of naturally occurring processes in the landscapes and how we can steward these to create both beautiful and ecologically significant landscapes.

Projected Spring Semester 2023

Dates of spring classes to be determined. Additions and subtractions are also possible. More information will be given near the end of the fall semester.

Native Seed Starting	February (3 hours)
Heirloom Apple Grafting	February-March (3 hours)
Spring Work in the Rose Garden	Early-Mid April (3 hours)
Spring Pruning of Woody Ornamental Plants	Early-Mid April (4 hours)
Dividing and Potting Perennials	Mid-Late April (3 hours)
Transplanting Shrubs & Planting Small Ornamental Trees	Mid-Late April (4 hours)