

Berkshire Botanical Garden -- Horticulture Certificate Program

Garden Practicum Fall 2019 Schedule

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.

All work sessions are weather dependent. Call Chris Wellens at (413) 357-4657 or email at cwellens@berkshirebotanical.org for any questions.

Fall Semester 2019

Saturday, September 14, 10am- 1pm

Bringing Plants in for the Winter (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**, topics of this class will include cultivation, fertilizing, watering and healthcare. Learn by doing and take home some plant companions. These simple, cost-saving methods will help gardeners multiply their plant supply for the next season's garden.

Saturday, September 28, 9am - 3pm

Building a Dry Stone Wall (6 hours)

Join stonemason artist **Mark Mendel** for a hands-on program covering the basics of dry stone wall building, including planning, layout, and demonstrations on cutting and fitting. The morning will consist of a lecture, a walk through the garden to view a variety of stone walls, and site preparation. Students will learn how to set up a batter frame and cut stone, and will practice laying stones to create structural integrity through interlocking placement. Following the demonstrations, students will work on a dry stone wall and practice wall-building. The workshop will pay special attention to building a freestanding wall using field stone. ***Dress for outdoor work and bring safety glasses, heavy gloves, sturdy, waterproof footwear and a bag lunch.***

Wednesday, October 16, 9am – Noon

Vegetable Garden End of Season Care (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.***

Saturday, October 19, 10:00am - 1:00pm

Pruning Shrubs and Small Trees (3 hours)

Autumn is a great time to assess your woody plants for shape and structure. This demonstration/workshop taught by arborist **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.***

Tuesday, October 22, 9am - Noon

Preparing the Borders for Winter (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.***

Saturday, December 14, 10am – 2pm

Bark and Buds - Using a Tree Key (4 hours)

Discover the many plants that lend bark, buds, fruit and structural interest to the garden in fall and winter. Under the expert guidance of **Brad Roeller**, students will develop the ability to identify winter trees by twig and bud anatomy, bark features and plant architecture while practicing their skills with winter tree dichotomous keys. This program will be held primarily indoors, and students will work with collected specimens. ***Bring a bag lunch and dress for occasional outdoor fieldwork.***

