

# Horticulture Certificate Program Berkshire Botanical Garden

## **Garden Practicum Spring 2020 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.

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### **Ready, Set, Grow: Starting seeds for plants that will hit the ground growing!**

**Saturday, March 21, 10 am - 1 pm (3 hours)**

Learn vegetable and flower seed-starting and plant-growing techniques that result in vigorous plants from organic grower **Maureen Sullivan** of Left Field Farm, in Middlefield, MA. This workshop will focus on indoor sowing and growing-on practices, including preparation of an effective seed-sowing schedule, techniques for successful germination of challenging seeds, and management of plants at various stages of growth. Workshop participants will practice seed sowing and transplanting a variety of plants to take home for the spring and summer growing season.

***What to Bring: no supplies needed, gardening gloves optional***

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### **Spring Pruning of Woody Ornamental Plants**

**Saturday, March 28, 10 am - 2 pm (4 hours)**

Spring is a great time to assess woody shrubs for shape, structure, and winter damage. This workshop will focus on learning by doing. **Ron Yapple**, owner of Race Mountain Tree Services in Sheffield, MA, will demonstrate how to renovate, rejuvenate, and shape shrubs and small ornamental trees for structure, health, and optimal growth. Plants covered will include viburnums, lilacs, witch hazels, deciduous azaleas, sweetshrubs, crab apples, and ornamental cherries.

***What to Bring: dress for working outdoors most of the day, work gloves, and a bag lunch. Some pruners will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own if they have them.***

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### **Cultivating Mushrooms at Home: Winecaps, Oysters, and Shiitakes**

**Sunday, April 5, 1-3 pm (2 hours)**

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. Discussion will focus on several different methods of mushroom cultivation on wood, including shiitakes 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.

***What to Bring: Work gloves optional but encouraged.***



## **Garden Practicum Spring 2020 Schedule**

### **Spring Work in the Rose Garden**

**Thursday, April 16, 9am - noon (3 hours)**

Work side-by-side with **BBG horticulture staff** as they bring the rose garden back to life! The rose garden at BBG is a teaching/experimental garden using David Austin English roses. Topics discussed will include pruning, initial bed prep. and planting, overwintering, and pest management. All lessons will be taught while working in the garden.

***What to Bring: dress for working outdoors most of the day and bring sturdy work gloves appropriate for working with thorns. Some pruners will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own if they have them.***

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### **Transplanting Shrubs & Planting Small Ornamental Trees**

**Saturday, April 18, 10 am - 1 pm (4 hours)**

Learn by doing in this hands-on shrub and tree planting/transplanting workshop led by arborist **Ken Gooch**. All aspects of successful planting will be demonstrated, and participants will assist in transplanting a multi-stem shrub and planting a small tree. Learn how to successfully transplant shrubs through correct timing, placement, and techniques designed to create minimal disturbance and ensure a smooth transition to a new site. Consider the differences between bare-root, container-grown, or balled-and-burlapped trees, and understand the importance of siting.

***What to Bring: dress for working outdoors most of the day and bring work gloves. Some pruners will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own if they have them.***

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### **Dividing and Potting Perennials**

**Thursday, April 23, 9am - noon (3 hours)**

This practicum will be working along with the **BBG horticulture staff** and seasoned garden volunteers to dig and divide perennials from around the garden. This is a great skill to be able to add more plants for free. It is also a good time to evaluate your plants from their root systems: a very telling method for plant health detection which we normally do not see.

***What to Bring: Dress for working outdoors most of the day and bring work gloves if you wish to use them. You may also wish to bring pruners.***

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### **Building a Dry Stone Wall**

**Saturday, April 25, 9 am - 3 pm (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.

***What to Bring: Dress for outdoor work and bring safety glasses, heavy gloves, and sturdy, waterproof footwear. Bring a bag lunch.***

