



Ecological Gardening Certificate Program Overview

A certificate in Ecological Gardening from Phipps Conservatory will give you a strong foundation in good gardening practices as well as a holistic look at the native plants and ecosystems of Western Pennsylvania. With this background you will be able to create gardens and residential landscapes that reflect an understanding of natural systems and provide beautiful places of refuge for people and local wildlife. Courses will cover botany and plant science as well as sustainable plants (those which are well suited to local conditions and won't take over, including natives) and how to identify plants in the field. Garden plant propagation will be explored along with the practical skills of maintaining the health of a garden using organic strategies. The certificate includes a look at the ecosystems of Western Pennsylvania and concludes with a course on home garden design.

The study of Ecological Gardening is for those who have a vision of their yards or gardens as ecological havens which provide for a community of wildlife and create an ecosystem of which the designer is a part. Our students are both homeowners and landcare professionals looking to deepen their knowledge and understanding of local ecology and how to create more sustainable landscapes. Our qualified instructors will help you meet your goals as they lead you through a final design project and guide you toward the receipt of a certificate.

This certificate is designed to be completed in one year and begins in January and ends in December of each year. It is possible to complete this program in one year, depending on your choice of electives and availability to attend classes when offered. It can, however, be completed over a longer period of time. All core classes will be offered annually while electives will change; see the website for up-to-date information, <https://www.phipps conservatory.org/classes-and-programs/for-adults/ecological-gardening-and-landscape-and-garden-design>.

Ecological Gardening Certificate Requirements

To receive a certificate, students must satisfactorily complete seven core courses. Additionally, 20 hours of electives must be completed to qualify for a certificate in Ecological Gardening. Electives include various gardening and design classes which allow students to explore diverse topics and enhance their overall learning, including courses on native plants, plant health care and habitat gardening. Several electives will be offered each semester and will change year to year.

Ecological Gardening Course Overview and Worksheet

Check the website for updates and class descriptions,

<https://www.phipps.conservatory.org/classes-and-programs/for-adults/ecological-gardening-and-landscape-and-garden-design>.

Please use this worksheet to track your progress:

Core Courses

- _____ Botany for Gardeners
- _____ Sustainable Landscape Plants
- _____ Plant Propagation
- _____ Field Botany
- _____ Sustainable Gardening Principles and Practices
- _____ Ecology and the Designed Landscape
- _____ Home Garden Design

Electives (20 hours required)

Keep track of the elective classes you have attended below, record the Class title, date and credit hours.

Home Garden Design Project:

Your study of Ecological Gardening will culminate with a residential garden design showcasing your learning.

Outside Credits:

If you have recently attended a university course or other continuing education program which you think could be applied to credits in an existing core course, please contact the [Adult Education Administrative Assistant at 412-441-4442 ext. 3925 or edu@phipps.conservatory.org](mailto:edu@phipps.conservatory.org).

Successful completion of Phipps Sustainable Landcare Accreditation training will count toward the Sustainable Gardening Principles and Practices course as well as 10 elective credits.

Successful completion of Phipps Master Gardener training will count toward the Sustainable Gardening Principles and Practices course as well as 15 elective credits.