



# CERTIFICATE IN NATIVE PLANTS & ECOLOGICAL HORTICULTURE

COASTAL MAINE  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS

WWW.MAINEGARDENS.ORG

**O**ur field-based Certificate in Native Plants & Ecological Horticulture is a program designed to instruct gardeners and landscape professionals about Maine's diverse flora and its uses in ecologically-responsible horticulture.

This program guides committed gardeners through an ordered course of study, first covering the basic biology and ecology of native plants, then progressing toward advanced topics in green horticultural methods, design, and plant selection. Students who complete the required classroom and hands-on coursework, along with several elective workshops or field trips, will earn a Certificate in Native Plants & Ecological Horticulture awarded by Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens.

The certificate may be used as a marketable resume item or simply as a means for enjoyment and personal growth. Graduates are challenged to use their earned certificate to propel their career or avocational activities to new heights in environmental stewardship.

## DESIGNED FOR MAINE GARDENERS

The Certificate in Native Plants & Ecological Horticulture is specifically tailored for Maine gardeners, featuring the climate conditions, specific challenges, plants, and natural communities found right here in the Pine Tree State. Students will learn from instructors experienced in gardening in Maine's landscape with native plants and environmentally sound techniques best suited to our northern climate.

## GAIN SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Small groups of students benefit from engaging, hands-on courses covering:

- Native plants of Maine, how they function and reproduce, their natural habitats, and best garden applications.
- How garden plants interact with their growing environment.
- How to select appropriate native plants for various site conditions.
- How to prepare and maintain gardens using sustainable methods such as composting, integrated and organic pest management, and low water inputs.
- How to incorporate ecologically-sensitive design principles into landscapes.



Elective workshops and field trips training students in specific skills such as seed collection and propagation, identification of wild plants, creating green roofs, methods of composting, etc., will allow students to customize the program to suit their own interests.







## THE COURSES

The program consists of eleven required courses and three elective workshops or trips (see list below). Students may progress through the curriculum at their own pace. A highly-motivated student can complete the program over the course of nineteen months (two growing seasons); we ask that each student participate in at least two courses per year.

Instructors include a combination of Gardens' staff and guest experts with a variety of specialties. Courses are held on the Gardens' grounds, in the LEED-Certified Bosarge Family Education Center, and afield on the beautiful Boothbay Peninsula and beyond. For a complete listing of certificate courses available this year, or to register for individual courses, please visit [www.MaineGardens.org](http://www.MaineGardens.org) or call 207-633-8012.

### REQUIRED COURSES

- Soil Science for Gardeners
- The Life of a Plant: An Introduction to Botany
- Introduction to the Native Flora of Maine
- Horticultural Ecology: Biological Interactions of Garden Plants & Environment
- Invasive Plants: Issues, Identification and Ecology
- Sustainable Horticultural Practices
- Ecological Landscape Design
- Landscaping for Wildlife
- Natural Communities of Maine
- Selecting Native Herbaceous Plants for the Maine Garden
- Selecting Native Woody Plants for the Maine Garden

### EXAMPLES OF ELECTIVE WORKSHOPS AND TRIPS

- Fundamentals of Pruning
- Mosses in your Maine Garden
- Wildflower Propagation
- Rain Gardens
- Woodland Gardens
- Advanced Planting Techniques
- Wildflower Meadow Gardens
- Native Ferns of Maine
- Design a Butterfly Garden
- Favorite Native Plant Cultivars for Maine
- Natural Community Restoration
- Wetland Ecology

The certificate program requires eleven courses plus three electives of your choice.



Both in the classroom and in the field, CMBG's certificate program covers the basic biology and ecology of native plants, then progresses toward advanced topics in horticulture, design and plant selection.

## ENROLLMENT AND COSTS

To ensure a top-quality experience for participants, only 15 students are admitted to the program per year. Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning in January of each year. All interested students are welcome at any level of experience. There is a \$25 fee to enroll in the program; participating in a minimum of two classes per year will keep enrollment active. Students register and pay for individual courses and electives at their own pace. The complete cost of the program will vary from student to student, depending on the type of elective courses chosen. The 11 required courses include 10 to 12 hours of class time and cost \$130–160 per course for members. Elective workshops and field trips vary widely in price.

For more information or to register, please contact Irene Barber, Adult Education Program Manager, at [ibarber@mainegardens.org](mailto:ibarber@mainegardens.org).

