Cambridge University Botanic Garden
Horticultural courses Jan-Apr 2021

The following courses are designed to give participants a comprehensive introduction to horticulture across the gardening year.

Sessions can be attended singly or as the complete series, no previous experience is needed. For each course there is an online only or online plus practical option.

An introduction to how plants work: classification, taxonomy and life cycles
Sandie Cain, 16th January 10-1pm (online) 17th January 10-2pm (Botanic Garden)  £25 online only, £75 online plus practical
The online session gives learners an introduction to the plant kingdom and develops knowledge of how plants are grouped together in order to better understand them. It also provides an overview of plant names and morphology. The practical session will provide learners with the skills to start identifying common garden plants using a variety of plant keys.

Introduction to how plants grow: anatomy, photosynthesis, transpiration and respiration
Sandie Cain, 13th February 10-1pm (online) 14th February 10-2pm (Botanic Garden)  £25 online only, £75 online plus practical
The online session covers the fundamental processes and key structures within a plant that are responsible for its growth including photosynthesis, respiration and transpiration. The practical session will cover how plants are adapted for different climates and environments including a tour of the Mediterranean beds and some of the specialist areas behind the scenes.

Introduction to propagation: seed sowing, cuttings, division and layering
Sandie Cain, 13th March 10-1pm (online) 14th March 10-2pm (Botanic Garden)  £25 online only, £75 online plus practical
The online session gives an introduction to the anatomy and physiology of flowers, pollination and how seeds are formed, as well as the science of germination. The practical session covers sowing vegetable and hardy annual seeds to be grown on in a protected environment, and taking hardwood cuttings.

Introduction to fruit and vegetable production
Sandie Cain, 17th April 10-1pm (online) 18th April 10-2pm (Botanic Garden)  £25 online only, £75 online plus practical
The online session introduces learners to growing fruit and vegetables detailing how to select a perfect site, plan and optimise harvest from the fruit and vegetable plot. The practical session covers preparing the ground, seed sowing outdoors and planting out seedlings including methods for protecting crops from pests and diseases.

Book online at:
www.botanic.cam.ac.uk/education-learning/courses/

For further information contact: education@botanic.cam.ac.uk

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Cambridge University Botanic Garden
Horticultural courses  May-Jul 2021

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**Introduction to planting and maintenance of ornamental beds**
*Sandie Cain, 15th May 10-1pm (online) 16th May 10-2pm (Botanic Garden)*  £25 online only, £75 online plus practical

The online session introduces a variety of different ornamental garden options and provides instruction on how to plan, maintain and choose plants appropriate for the space. In the practical session learners will design and plant up summer containers as well as taking a tour of the garden to see how a variety of garden styles are designed and maintained.

**Introduction to garden design, site survey, appraisal and scale drawing**
*Sandie Cain, 12th June 10-1pm (online) 13th June 10-2pm (Botanic Garden)*  £25 online only, £75 online plus practical

The online session introduces the practices and principle methods for designing a garden including an introduction to site assessment, survey and appraisal, in order to produce a scale plan. In the practical session learners will measure and record to create a scale drawing. There will also be a tour of the dry garden and Cory Lawns to see how design principles are laid out.

**Introduction to pests and diseases: plant husbandry and plant health**
*Sandie Cain, 3rd July 10-1pm (online) 4th July 10-2pm (Botanic Garden)*  £25 online only, £75 online plus practical

The online session introduces best practice in cultivating gardens and growing plants, to minimise pests and diseases using plant husbandry, including identification of common pests and diseases. The practical session will provide an opportunity to study and practice garden maintenance skills including when to use each method.

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Introduction to soils: formation, texture, structure and assessment
Sandie Cain, 9th October 10-1pm (online) 10th October 10-2pm (Botanic Garden)  £25 online only, £75 online plus practical
The online session introduces learners to soil formation and how to cultivate soil to promote its health including the science of soils and the variety of life within it. In the practical session learners will gain the practical skills needed to assess soil for pH, structure, nutrient value and organic matter content as well as drainage.

Introduction to sustainable gardening: composting, ponds and habitats
Sandie Cain, 18th September 10-1pm (online) 19th September 10-2pm (Botanic Garden)  £25 online only, £75 online plus practical
The online session will provide the knowledge to start gardening with good habits, benefiting not only garden wildlife but the wider world. The practical session will include a tour of the wildlife monitoring happening at the Botanic Garden, how the Garden is contributing to research and understanding of wildlife in UK gardens and how we can contribute to that knowledge.

Introduction to pruning: science and anatomy of trees and shrubs
Sandie Cain, 13th November 10-1pm (online) 14th November 10-2pm (Botanic Garden)  £25 online only, £75 online plus practical
The online session introduces learners to the art of choosing the right tree or shrub to suit its garden setting. With a look at how trees and shrubs grow, learners will find out how and why to prune woody plants to get the desired effect. In the practical session learners will gain the practical skills needed to prune woody plants with confidence.

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