

The North Carolina Arboretum is proud to launch

Blue Ridge Eco-Gardener Certificate of Merit



Ecological gardening is a way of thinking about gardens and landscapes in which gardens are no longer seen as a collection of plants, but a community with complex interdependencies between plants, soils, environment and animals. This certificate program explores ecological principles to help you understand how to design, create and manage a healthy, self-sustaining garden and landscape. Anyone may take classes in the Blue Ridge Eco-Gardener program, but for those interested in developing their skills and knowledge in sustainable gardening, the Certificate of Merit includes a series of core classes as well as elective classes in areas of interest to the candidate.

Overview of BREG Program

Prospective students must complete an application for admission to the program. (See [How to Apply](#) below.)

Students in the **Blue Ridge Eco-Gardener Certificate of Merit** program will participate in 120 contact hours from education classes, including 75 hours of core studies and 45 hours of elective studies. The curriculum can be completed in a minimum of 24 months, dependent on class schedule and instructor availability. Some students might need a longer time to complete the full 120 hour program of study. Students are advised to begin the certificate program with the required class, "Introduction to Ecological Gardening Part One." There is no requirement for a final project. **Please note that there is a 75% minimum attendance requirement to receive credit for classes taken in pursuit of the certificate.**

Program Required Text: "Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes"
Rainer, Thomas and Claudia West (2015, Timber Press).

Core Studies

75 hours

Introduction to Ecological Gardening Part One: Principles	9
Introduction to Ecological Gardening Part Two: Methods	9
Winter Seasonal Gardening	2
Spring Seasonal Gardening	2
Summer Seasonal Gardening	2
Fall Seasonal Gardening	2
Spring Plants of Interest	3
Summer Plants of Interest	3
Fall Plants of Interest	3
Winter Plants of Interest	2
Landscape Design Class	9
Botany for Gardeners	6
Latin for Gardeners	2
Ecology	12
Gardening in a Changing Climate	3
Pollinators	3
Wildlife in the Garden	3

Elective Studies

45 hours

Elective studies may be selected from classes on hardscape, edibles, seed saving, grasses, green infrastructure, ergonomics, selected plant groups and more. Electives may be taken in any combination and used to concentrate on the area of interest. Electives will be clearly identified in the Adult Education catalog.
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How to Apply

Complete an application online or download an application form on the Arboretum website: http://www.ncarboretum.org/education-programs/certifications/ Return the completed application form to the Arboretum with a \$55 application fee: Mail: Registrar, The North Carolina Arboretum 100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, NC 28806 Call: Registrar at 828-665-2492

For More Information

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