

When and Where are classes held?

All classes are held at the Chicago Botanic Garden with limited site visits to outside venues. Core classes are programmed on weekday evenings and weekends to accommodate working professionals and adults with busy lifestyles.

How large are the classes?

Lecture classes can hold up to 50 registrants. Lab formats are limited to 20—24 students.

How much will this cost?

Classes average \$13 per instructional hour

How long will this take me?

We offer students a flexible approach to their education allowing them to finish a program at their own pace. Some programs can be completed in as little as 2 years and others have up to 5 years for completion. Students may enroll in a single course to address a specific need or interest; build a sequence of courses to meet individual needs; or earn a certificate of completion for a specific program of study.

Where do I start?

Botany 1 and Introduction to Midwest Gardening are strongly recommended as your first classes.

A Sample 2 year course of Study

Year 1:

Botany 1, Fall

Introduction to Midwest Gardening, Fall

Growing Ornamental Plant Materials, Winter

Growing Fruit Trees and Berries, Spring

Survey of Plant Disorders, Summer

Year 2:

Understanding Soils, Fall

Basic Landscape Principles, Fall

Plant Propagation, Winter

Growing Vegetables and Herbs, Summer

All certificate students are asked to provide an email address for program and course updates, confirmation letters, supply lists and general student correspondence.

Certificate of Merit Programs

Come Grow with us!

Certificate of merit programs provide students specialized, high-quality educational programs without the need to be enrolled in a college or university.

Many students enrolled in certificate of merits consider themselves "lifelong learners," hoping simply to become better gardeners, while others are professionals working to improve their expertise and marketability.

What is a certificate?

A Certificate signifies that a student has successfully fulfilled all the requirements of a prescribed series of courses.

Certificates are awarded each year, and have been used by many individuals to improve their base knowledge of plants and the natural world or to prepare for entry into more extensive educational training programs.

What programs do you offer?

The School has certificate programs in

- Midwest Gardening
- Garden Design
- Professional Gardener Level 1 & 2
- Ornamental Plant Materials
- Healthcare Garden Design
- Botanical Art

Midwest Gardening

www.chicagobotanic.org/certificate


CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN
JOSEPH REGENSTEIN, JR. SCHOOL

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT PROGRAMS

Midwest Gardening

Certificate of Merit Program (MGC)

In the Midwest Gardening Program, students new to gardening will gain skills and basic training with a practical user-friendly approach to make them a more successful home gardener.

There are no prerequisites for this Certificate Program and no prior horticulture experience is needed.

Who Should Participate

- Anyone wanting to become a more successful home gardener
- Master Gardeners who would like to further their education and training

Program Design

The program requirements include nine core courses offered on a rotating basis over a two-year period. If you are able to take all the courses when offered, you can complete the certificate in just two years.

Program Requirements

Core courses may be taken in any order, but it is highly recommended that Botany 1 and Introduction to Midwest Gardening be taken at the first opportunity.

For the certificate, a grade of at least 70 percent must be achieved for each core course. All requirements for the certificate must be completed within five years of the start date of your first core course.

You can prove proficiency for up to 20 percent of the coursework by passing proficiency exams or providing transcripts indicating grades of at least 70 percent for similar courses. There is no separate enrollment for the program.

MGC CORE COURSES

Botany 1

Introduction to Midwest Gardening

Growing Vegetable and Herbs

Growing Fruit Trees and Berries

Growing Ornamental Plant Materials

Survey of Plant Disorders

Plant Propagation

Understanding Soils

Basic Landscape Principles

Certificates are awarded once a year at our fall graduation ceremony and reception.

Students must register with the office of continuing education for graduation and certificate completion.

The mission of the Chicago Botanic Garden is to promote the enjoyment, understanding and conservation of plants in the natural world. Through the Joseph Regenstein, Jr. School, the professional expertise, and talents of the Garden's horticulturists and educators are shared with students of all levels.

For more information regarding certificate programs or upcoming classes please contact Amelia Simmons Hurt at 847-835-8293, email certificateprogram@chicagobotanic.org or www.chicagobotanic.org/certificate

To register for classes or for more information about the Joseph Regenstein Jr., School please call the registrar at 847-835-8261 or online at www.chicagobotanic.org/school