

department of  
**HORTICULTURE**

**Certificate Programs**  
**ORNAMENTAL PLANT**  
**MATERIALS CERTIFICATE OF**  
**MERIT PROGRAM (OPC)**

In the Ornamental Plant Materials Program, develop knowledge of the ever-expanding variety of ornamentals well suited for north-eastern Illinois. The program covers more than 500 plants, focusing on identification, cultural requirements and use in gardens and the broader landscape.

**Who Should Participate**

- Avid amateur gardeners and plant enthusiasts
- Aspiring horticulture professionals
- Horticulture, garden design and landscape architecture professionals

**Program Design**

The program requirements include the nine core courses and 24 instructional hours of elective courses. The core courses are 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. A selection of elective courses is offered throughout the year.

After completing Botany 1 all remaining core courses may be taken in any order. We recommend that you take several core courses before beginning to take electives.

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 college transcripts indicating grades of at least 70 percent for similar courses.

There is no separate enrollment for the program. Just take your first course and you are on your way. Please contact Amelia Simmons-Hurt at (847) 835-8293 or [school@chicagobotanic.org](mailto:school@chicagobotanic.org) if you have questions or comments about the program or courses.

OPC CORE COURSES	PREREQUISITES
Botany 1 (B)	None
Deciduous Flowering Shrubs (I)	Botany 1
Annuals and Biennials (I)	Botany 1
Herbaceous Perennials (I)	Botany 1
Conifers and Broad Leaved Evergreens (I)	Botany 1
Hardy Bulbs (I)	Botany 1
Small Flowering Trees (I)	Botany 1
Ground Covers and Vines (I)	Botany 1
Deciduous Trees (I)	Botany 1

Winter/Spring 2006-2007 OPC ELECTIVES	PREREQUISITES
The Best New Annuals for 2007 (I)	None
The Green Entrepreneur: New Plant Products (I)	None
The Green Entrepreneur: Bringing in the Green (I)	None
The Green Entrepreneur: Garden Design, Installation and Maintenance (I)	None
The Green Entrepreneur: Stonework and Paving (I)	None
Annual and Tender Perennial Vines (I)	None
Espalier Basics (I)	None
Chicagoland Grows®—Unique Plant Introduction Program (I)	None
The Best of Fir, Pine and Spruce (I)	None
Tulip Tutorial (I)	None
Hydrangea and Hibiscus (I)	None