

THE FOUR SCHOOLS



FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Flower Show School is a comprehensive program that teaches all you need to know about judging, entering, competing, and chairing an NGC flower show. There are 4 courses, each generally scheduled over a 2-3 day period, and each with a specific curriculum that includes horticulture, design, and flower show procedure. If you are considering becoming a flower show judge, planning to chair a flower show, or simply want to learn more, your first step is to attend Course I and subsequent courses should be taken in order.

What will I learn?

Horticulture Curriculum: Discover how to select, groom and exhibit your plants while mastering the writing of a flower show schedule.

Design Curriculum: Instruction in the design prepares the student to judge Flower Show exhibits, to write Design Division Sections and Classes for a Flower Show Schedule, and to use the verbiage that pertains to the Principles and Elements of Design. Students learn how to effectively and equitably judge designs ranging from Traditional to Creative and from Tables to Exploration/Freedom of Expression.

Flower Show Procedure: Learn about flower show awards, show requisites and different types of shows. The NGC Handbook for Flower Shows provides guidelines for the successful planning, executing and judging of a flower show.

Course Content

- **Course 1** includes an introduction to the Handbook for Flower Shows, flower show basics, discussions of growing and showing two Horticulture types with emphasis on exhibiting and judging using point-scoring. Instructor's designs illustrate Principles and Elements of Design and include Traditional designs: Line, Line-Mass and Mass.
- **Course 2** Presents photography in the Botanical Arts division, Petite designs and horticulture, and Table designs. Examples provided and critiqued using the Principles and Elements of Design. Two horticulture types are studied and point scored as well as a review of judging vocabulary. Types of innovative staging for horticulture are reviewed. The Elfin Award in Petite Horticulture and Table Design Awards are explained in detail. The duties of the Flower show committees are discussed.
- **Course 3** will explore the Education Division and Youth/Sponsored Group Divisions. Judging etiquette/ethics are reviewed. The horticulture section goes into the details of combination plantings along with one specific horticulture type with examples provided and point scored. Several types of creative designs are featured and point-scored along with commenting vocabulary
- **Course 4** discusses the Flower Show Schedule writing assignment, writing a schedule with the emphasis on format

and general rules and how to evaluate flower shows. This course explores Abstract Design including plastic organization and dynamic balance. The introduction of Collections and Displays, discussion of Botanical Arts Horticulture and Design sections, Club Competition, and Gardens are the focus of this course.

Source: "Handbook for Flower Shows," rev. 2017 2nd ed., rev. 2023, National Garden Clubs, Inc., at www.gardenclub.org/flower-show-school-resources

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

Since its founding in 1958, professional instructors have maintained the high standards originally incorporated in the landscape design study program. Students acquire the tools for making their own gardens more beautiful and easier to maintain. Students have been motivated to serve in political decision-making areas where awareness of the impact of a well-designed landscape can enhance the beauty and enjoyment of life in the public arena.

What will I learn?

Planning: Start with the basics of landscape design theory, history and what to include in a landscape plan. Learn how to balance color, structure and suitability.

Process: Continue your landscape design journey with deciding the who, what and where of the landscape plan to promote sustainable landscapes and sound ecological practices.

Completion: Finish with specific landscape design styles and evaluation as well as community involvement. Create your own home garden landscape plan.

Course Content

- **Course 1** – Your Ecosystem; Space, Design & People; Principles & Elements of LD; Developing Your Garden Plan; Basics of Site Plan; Color in the Landscape; Design for the Environment; Development of LD - Ancient Times to 1840; Xeriscaping
- **Course 2** – LD Process; Designing for Pollinators & Wildlife; Plants in the Landscape; Accessible, Enabling & Therapeutic Gardens; Structures in the Landscape; Redesign of Areas; Development of North American LD; Preservation of Historic Sites & Structures; Overused, Often Invasive Plants & Native Alternatives
- **Course 3** – LD Process; Woody Plants in the Landscape; Herbaceous Materials in the Landscape; LD with Maintenance in Mind; Graphics Interpretation; Creating Your Own Home Garden Landscaping Plan
- **Course 4** – Contemporary LD Trends; Community Participation in Landscaping Projects; History & Development of Community Gardens; Suburban Design; Guidelines for Evaluating Landscape Designs; Evaluation of Landscape Designs

Source: National Garden Clubs, Inc., Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools Handbook, rev. 2020, 2021, www.gardenclub.org/school/schools-resources

GARDENING SCHOOL

Gardening School consists of a series of four courses, scheduled over two days of instruction. The courses are designed to give students a better understanding of how and why a plant grows and cover all aspects of horticulture. Topics include basic botany, understanding soil structure and methods for making soil more productive, modifications to adapt

to certain weather conditions, and understanding the use of commercial and natural fungicides and pesticides, growth regulators and other chemicals used in general horticultural procedures. The courses also explore growing techniques for annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, fruits, vegetables, and lawns, as well as pruning techniques, plant identification, and disease and pest management. Additional topics may include selected subjects of local interest, reconciliation ecology and creating backyard habitats to help endangered species such as pollinators and amphibians as well as working with youth.

What will I learn?

Plants: Do you grow perennials, annuals, vegetables, fruits, houseplants or herbs? Gardening School teaches you growing techniques for all of these plants and more.

Pests and Diseases: Ever wonder why your plant is not flourishing? It could be an insect invasion or an infection--learn about plant diseases and pest control at Gardening School.

Gardens: Love the look of an English Cottage Garden? What about a shade garden or a native plant area? Gardening School discusses all of these and more styles of gardens.

Course Content

- **Course 1** – Basic Botany, Soils, Techniques for Growing Outdoor Flowers, Plant Propagation
- **Course 2** – Plant Diseases and Garden Pests, Irrigation and Water, Lawn and Alternatives and Growing Grass, Growing Fruits and Vegetables
- **Course 3** – Factors that influence Plant Growth, New Plant Development and Evaluation, Container Gardening – Outdoor, Houseplant Basics, Native Trees and Shrubs, Teaching Tour of a Botanical Garden
- **Course 4** – Plant Classification and Nomenclature, Outdoor Identification of Plants, Specialized Garden Styles, Techniques of Growing Woody Ornamentals, Pruning Techniques

Source: National Garden Clubs, Inc., Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools Handbook, rev. 2020, 2021, www.gardenclub.org/school/schools-resources

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL

Environmental School teaches environmental literacy which is a learning process concerned with the interrelationship within and between the various components of the natural and human-made world, producing growth in the individual and leading to responsible stewardship of the earth. The goal is to develop a citizenry that is aware of, and concerned about, the total environment and its associated problems, and which has the knowledge, attitude, motivation, skill and commitment to work individually and collectively toward solutions of current problems and the prevention of new ones. With the knowledge gained by this course of study, students will have a foundation to network and reach out to all segments of the community to achieve common goals.

What will I learn?

Biophysical Environment – You will learn about the Four Major Components of Earth's Life Support System: atmosphere (air), hydrosphere (water), geosphere (rock, soil, and sediment), and biosphere (living things)--the roles each has in

maintaining our living earth and the challenges we face today.

Identifying the Problems – How does pollution, loss of habitat, land use policies, and other man-made conditions impact plants and wildlife? What practices would promote biodiversity and sustainability?

Gardening and Earth Stewardship – Gardening practices can interfere with or sustain biodiversity of plants and wildlife. Are you a steward of the Earth or part of the problem?

Course Content

- **Course 1** The Living Earth - An Overview and Introduction: Ecology, Plants - Biodiversity, Environmental Science, Environmental Issues, Backyard and Wildlife Habitat, Networking and Outreach, Historic Environmental Actions and Leaders, Sustainability
- **Course 2** The Living Earth - Land and Related Issues: Ecology - Land, Plants - Agriculture, Source Reduction of Pollutants, Toxics and Materials, Coastal Zone Management, Environmental Resources, Wildlife - Animals -The Misunderstoods, Gardening with Nature
- **Course 3** The Living Earth - Air: Ecology - Air, Plants - Rain Forest, Environmental Ethics, Environmental Science - Pollution, Wildlife - Endangered Plants and Wildlife, Initiating Schools Programs, Earth Stewardship, Material Sources and Citizen Education Programs
- **Course 4** The Living Earth - Water: Ecology - Water, Plants - Aquatic Plants, Environmental Science, Sustainability, Wildlife - Aquatic Animals, Youth Programs in Environmental Education, Earth Stewardship - Effective Citizenship

Source: National Garden Clubs, Inc., Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools Handbook, rev. 2020, 2021, www.gardenclub.org/school/schools-resources