

# WHY NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR GARDENERS?



\*\* NGC's continuing education programs provide a comprehensive learning approach to key issues and practices in four study areas: gardening, landscape design, environment, and flower show.

\*\* The courses basic curricula are established by NGC as a nationwide standard, and course lectures usually are geared to the geographic area of the sponsoring organization, giving many courses a unique regional flavor.

\*\* The curricula for LDS, GS and ES are designed to provide a better understanding of the interrelationships between gardening practices, environmental factors, and land use.

\*\* Because knowledge and practices change over time, NGC modifies the courses curricula as needed so lecture topics change to incorporate new ideas or interests.

\*\* You can learn from specialists who are experienced in their field. NGC requires that instructors of required or tested material must be academically associated with a college or university or be professionals who are specialists in their field.

\*\* Successful completion of a series of NGC continuing education courses is the gateway to membership in the Councils which provide additional educational and networking opportunities in each of the four study areas (gardening, landscape design, environmental, and flower show). By joining a Council, you can expand your horizons beyond your own garden club.

\*\* A gardener's knowledge and skill help them to engage with their community to identify and solve problems, especially as environmental factors or land use changes in communities affect gardening practices and quality of life. Continuing education is an important way to stay current on problems and solutions of interest to you and your community.

\*\* NGC's continuing education programs are a good alternative for gardeners who want to learn more but are not able to commit the time required to become a Master Gardener or the expense to attend college courses.