

NYBG/125

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The New York Botanical Garden's 2016 "Summer Intensives" Accelerated Certificate Programs Offer Concentrated Training

Register Now for Classes in Many Plant-Related Fields Beginning July 11

Bronx, NY— The 2016 Summer Intensive Programs start July 11 at The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG). These full-time, concentrated Certificate Programs offer practical and comprehensive training in Landscape Design, Floral Design, and Gardening. Intensive Programs are targeted toward career-changers and individuals already working in these industries who wish to quickly receive practical and extensive training. Intensives offer participants the opportunity to fulfill most or all classroom hours required for a prestigious NYBG Certificate. Individual Intensive classes also are offered in Horticultural Therapy and Botanical Art & Illustration. Registrations are being accepted online at NYBG's [Summer Intensives Web site](#).

Each year adults turn to the Botanical Garden's Summer Intensives for professional training and personal growth. Participants in last year's programs came from a variety of professional backgrounds, including market research, retail, e-commerce operations, urban planning, finance, hospitality, information technology, and creative design. Stay-at-home moms and dads wishing to return to the workforce and retirees looking to continue their personal enrichment also enrolled.

Wendy Ford had spent 30 years in the fashion industry when she enrolled in the 2015 Landscape Design Intensive. "I decided to go back to school and study a subject I have always loved in hope of turning it into a new career," she said. "I was looking to fast-track my studies, and I hoped that by the end of the summer, I would begin to be proficient in many skills needed to create successful designs." After completing the remaining course hours required for her Certificate, Wendy graduated in June and is already taking on residential landscape design projects for private clients.

Valerie Rojas Braverman was a visual stylist at Bloomingdale's who wanted to merge her existing creative career with a freelance floral business. She registered for the 2015 Floral Design Intensive and is now an alumna of the Certificate Program. Valerie credits "NYBG's incomparable and prestigious" Floral Design Program for helping her to achieve her goal. "I'm using the professional skills I learned from NYBG instructors to run my own freelance business in floral design and event production," she said.

The 2016 Summer Intensives now accepting registrations are:

Landscape Design: July 11–August 17 (5-1/2 weeks)

Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

The Landscape Design Certificate prepares students for creative careers as landscape designers. The Intensive includes interactive classes with top landscape architects, designers, and guest lecturers and access to the Garden's incomparable resources. Students earn half the classroom hours required for an NYBG Certificate.

Floral Design: July 11–August 12 (5 weeks)

Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Students work one-on-one with top floral design professionals in hands-on courses covering all facets of the floral design industry and create dozens of arrangements in diverse styles for many occasions. Students also practice real-world business situations, including retail ordering for clients. Students complete all required classroom hours, needing only an internship and portfolio submission to earn an NYBG Certificate.

Gardening: July 11–22 (2 weeks)

Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

NYBG experts guide participants through the art and science of plant selection and care for home or small-scale public gardens. Students complete more than 25 percent of all course work required for the NYBG Gardening Certificate, laying a solid foundation of principles for environmentally sound gardening, plant and soil science, integrated pest management, and plant selection.

Individual Intensive classes also are available for Botanical Art & Illustration and Horticultural Therapy, for which some required courses are compressed into a one- or two-week format:

Botanical Art & Illustration Intensive Classes

Five classes, July 11–August 12

Botanical Art & Illustration focuses on capturing the beauty and the science of the natural world. Students can complete Botanical Drawing I and II and other required Certificate classes in half the normal time frame.

Horticultural Therapy Intensive Classes

Six classes, July 11–August 12

This Certificate Program teaches therapeutic skills and horticultural techniques needed to serve a broad population of people in need. Participants can complete six of nine required core Horticultural Therapy classes in a one-week format.

Summer Intensives are part of the Garden's larger Certificate Program, which offers year-round courses in the five discipline areas mentioned above, as well as in Botany and Horticulture. Each year the Adult Education Program offers more than 700 hands-on courses for both beginners seeking personal enrichment and professionals working to hone their existing skills in their chosen fields.

Day, evening, and weekend classes are available at the Garden's 250-acre National Historic Landmark site in the Bronx and at the Midtown Education Center, located at 20 West 44th Street, between Fifth and Sixth Avenues in Manhattan. To browse classes and for more information on registration, visit nybg.org/adulted or call 800.322.NYBG (6924).

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

Contact: Stevenson Swanson, sswanson@nybg.org or 718.817.8512;
Elizabeth Fisher, efisher@nybg.org or 718.817.8786.