

NYBG

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New Year, New Garden: NYBG's Winter Adult Education Classes Offer Gardeners of All Levels the Opportunity to Get a Head Start on Spring

Registration Available for Classes and Workshops Starting in Early January 2019, Including Gardening Fundamentals, Plant Science, Landscape Design, and Much More



Bronx, NY—Winter is here, but that's no reason for gardeners and plant-lovers to go into hibernation. The Winter 2019 term of The New York Botanical Garden's Adult Education program, which starts in early January, offers a rich variety of gardening classes and workshops that will keep the winter blues away and prepare both professionals and weekend gardeners for the return of warm weather and the start of a new growing season.

Classes and workshops at all levels are open for registration. Learn the basics of plant science, dig into the fundamentals of gardening, or be inspired to create a personal kitchen garden of herbs, vegetables, and flowers for cutting. One-day workshops in February will prepare gardeners to get off to a fast start with spring clean-up, including how to improve the quality of their garden's soil and how to prune trees and shrubs to keep them healthy and promote growth.

For those who want to take their professional gardening career to the next level, the new year also marks the beginning of a new term of classes that are required in the NYBG Gardening Certificate Program, covering such topics as sustainable gardening techniques, soil science, plant propagation, and garden care and design. Regional experts guide students through the art and science of plant selection and care for projects of any size, from small-scale residential to urban or community gardens.

Many classes are available at both NYBG's 250-acre landmark location in the Bronx and its Midtown Education Center, 20 West 44th Street, in Manhattan, two blocks from Grand Central Terminal. Some classes are also held at the New Canaan Nature Center, 144 Oenoke Ridge (Route 124), New Canaan, Connecticut.

Here are some of the highlights of NYBG's Adult Education Gardening offerings, starting in January 2019. The complete catalog is available at nybg.org/adulted.

Introduction to Plant Science

Designed for students who want a user-friendly introduction to plant science, this course surveys the major groups of plants—flowering plants, conifers, ferns, and bryophytes—focusing on plant form and structure. Students learn about the relationships between appearance and function, ecology, systematics, and evolution and gain practical experience in dissecting and analyzing plant structures.

Series of seven classes: Starting Monday, January 7; Saturday, January 26; or Thursday, January 31; 10 a.m. (NYBG) and Tuesday, January 8, or Saturday, February 2; 6 p.m. (Midtown Education Center); Garden Member \$395/Non-Member \$435

Fundamentals of Gardening

Explore the basic principles underlying successful, environmentally friendly gardening, including the structure and physiological processes of plants and their relationships to the settings in which they grow. Students learn not only what to do, but why. Topics include soils and their improvement, seed sowing, vegetative propagation, planting, pruning, watering, weeding, mulching, and disease and pest control.

Series of four classes: Starting Tuesday, January 8, or Monday, February 4; 6 p.m. (Midtown Education Center); and Friday, February 1, or Saturday, March 9; 10 a.m. (NYBG); Garden Member \$295/Non-Member \$325

Soil Science for Gardeners

Understand how the qualities of soil affect the overall productivity of plants and make sustainable gardening practices possible. Practical application of theory is stressed. Topics include soil formation, physical properties of soil, soil-water relationships, and management techniques such as irrigation, drainage, and fertilization. Basic soil sampling, pH, and nutrient testing are introduced.

Series of four classes: Starting Thursday, January 10; 10 a.m. (NYBG) and Tuesday, February 12; 6 p.m. (Midtown Education Center); Garden Member \$285/Non-Member \$315

A Garden Design Primer

Take all your garden ideas and start putting them into place with this practical overview of garden design principles that ensure the best layout plan and circulation patterns. Learn how to analyze the space and create the perfect proportions that complement both home and garden, resulting in a coherent landscape design.

One-day classes: Saturday, January 12; 10 a.m. (NYBG) and Monday, February 25; 6 p.m. (Midtown Education Center); Garden Member \$39/Non-Member \$45

Basic Botany for Gardeners

Understanding how plants grow is vital to successful gardening. Ideal for gardeners at any level, this course explores the basic principles of plant physiology with a focus on vital aspects of botany that every gardener should understand. Learn helpful tricks and tips as we study core botanical principles in fast and friendly terms.

Series of three classes: Starts Wednesday, January 16; 6 p.m. (Midtown Education Center); Garden Member \$189/Non-Member \$209

Garden Design Workshop

Learn the basics of garden design, review examples that work for different architectural styles and site conditions, and develop a go-to plant list for your home landscape. In the second session, students will develop and draw a basic design plan for their garden that they can take home to refine and implement come spring.

Series of two classes: Starts Saturday, January 26; 10 a.m. (NYBG); Garden Member \$225/Non-Member \$249

A Kitchen Garden Plan

Devote new space in the garden for herbs, vegetables, fruits, and flowers for cutting. Get design inspirations for planning a kitchen garden and discover tried-and-true small trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants best suited to the site. Explore annuals and perennials, herbs for tea and culinary uses, and great ways to include both classic and novelty vegetables.

One-day class: Sunday, January 27; 10 a.m. (NYBG); Garden Member \$55/Non-Member \$59

Intro to Landscape Design

Gain an introduction to the terminology, concepts, and basic principles of landscape design through lectures and simple two-dimensional exercises. This course is recommended for students with little or no background in design who want to design for their own home or who are considering a Certificate.

Series of three classes: Starting Monday, January 28; 10 a.m. (NYBG); Saturday, February 23; 10 a.m. (Midtown Education Center); and Thursday, March 7; 10 a.m. (New Canaan Nature Center); Garden Member \$185/Non-Member \$205

Perennial Plant Combinations

Whether in a shady corner or a sunny border, selecting the right plant combinations makes the difference between a ho-hum garden and one that gets rave reviews. Concentrating on perennials, learn to use color, texture, height, and bloom when combining plants to create a harmonious look for your garden come spring.

One-day classes: Thursday, January 31; 10:30 a.m. (New Canaan Nature Center); Tuesday, February 12 or Saturday, March 23; 10:30 a.m. (NYBG); and Wednesday, February 27; 10:30 a.m. (Midtown Education Center); Garden Member \$79/Non-Member \$85

Wake Up Your Garden!

Spring is just around the corner, and with a little advance preparation gardeners will be ready to start the growing season right. Gain insights into prepping the soil, best pruning practices, and waking up the garden after winter. Consists of three two-hour sections:

- **Spring Gardeners Task List**

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Get those shrub and herbaceous borders spruced up and looking good! Spring cleaning in the garden can be fun. Review a checklist of tasks to be performed during spring maintenance, ranging from raking off winter mulch to looking for signs of winter injury and noting where gaps in the garden can be filled. All this gives your garden a head start on a great growing season.

- **Soil Basics: Get It Right!**

12:45–2:45 p.m.

If you get your soil right from the start, your garden will explode in lushness. Rich, nutritious soil makes for large, healthy plants and reduces the need for regular fertilization. Learn the difference between soil structure and texture; how these differences affect plant growth; and how you can modify your soil to improve its qualities. Give your garden a solid foundation, and you'll reap the benefits for years to come.

- **Pruning: Shape-Up for Spring**

3–5 p.m.

Are you intimidated by the idea of pruning? March is a great time to get your woody plants in shape by thinning out overgrowth to create open, healthy, beautiful trees and shrubs. Learn how and when to prune, the tools needed for the job, why pruning is necessary, and the difference between maintenance and rejuvenation pruning.

One-day workshops: Saturday, February 9 (NYBG) and Saturday, February 23 (New Canaan Nature Center); All three sections: Garden Member \$99/Non-Member \$109; Individual sections: Garden Member \$39/Non-Member \$45

For more information or to register, 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.

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