

NYBG

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The New York Botanical Garden Launches NYBG Plant Studio

New, Flexible Online Learning Program Features Bite-Sized Courses for Plant Enthusiasts Taught by Expert Instructors

Registration Is Now Open for Classes in Container Gardening, Orchid Design, Plant Science, Pruning Basics, and Beginner Landscape Design History, Beginning this April



Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) has launched NYBG Plant Studio, a first-of-its-kind addition to its expansive Continuing Education program, offering bite-sized online courses in gardening, floral design, plant science, landscape design, and more that are taught by expert instructors and are tailored for busy adults. Designed with flexibility in mind, courses vary by length, ranging from two to six weeks. Students will learn from an array of seasoned plant professionals who are eager to expand their plant knowledge through pre-recorded course videos; virtual tours of gorgeous garden spaces, often off-limits to the general public; and personal feedback on hands-on projects to shape their success—all in the comfort of their own space. Plant Studio learners from around the world will have the opportunity to connect with each other through online discussion boards, and those who complete class requirements will earn a digital credential from NYBG that can be shared on social media. Registration is now open for classes commencing in April 2024.

NYBG Plant Studio currently offers a portfolio of five courses—Plant Science, Landscape Design History for Beginners, Orchid Design, Container Gardening, and Pruning Basics. Each course has a specific start and end date as they are facilitated by experts who will guide each student to success. Course content is delivered weekly, on Wednesdays, through pre-recorded videos, showcasing the expertise of NYBG's plant professionals and the beauty of the Botanical Garden.

Each course includes weekly lectures, readings, assignments, and a final project on which students receive individualized feedback. Students have the opportunity to connect with course facilitators as well as each other through online discussion boards. Longer courses will include at least one Zoom session affording opportunities for live interaction, to ask questions, and spotlight hot topics in the field. All courses will also include a 30-day, read-only period after the course concludes. This allows time to re-watch course videos and review the discussion boards, so that students can learn at their own pace, in a style that works best for them.

Plant Studio courses are accessed through NYBG's learning management system, Canvas, which supports online learning. In Canvas, students can view course videos, submit assignments, receive and read announcements, and participate in online discussions, anytime and anywhere. The mode of delivery for the NYBG Plant Studio portfolio of courses differs from other online classes in The New York Botanical Garden's Continuing Education Program because Plant Studio has been designed with greater flexibility for the busy learner in mind.

NYBG Plant Studio Spring 2024 Portfolio of Courses

- **Plant Science**

Session Dates: Wednesday, April 3–May 15, 2024; May 1–June 12, 2024; and June 5–July 17, 2024

Course Content is Released Online Every Wednesday

NYBG Member \$585/Non-Member \$650

This six-week course will teach the core concepts of botany and introduce students to the fascinating world of plant science and the techniques NYBG scientists use to study, collect, and conserve these incredible organisms. Topics range from the basics of plant form and function to plant life cycle and reproduction; captivating plant survival adaptations; and a look into the critical importance of biodiversity to the planet. This course includes pre-recorded lectures as well as virtual behind-the-scenes tours of NYBG's Plant Research Laboratory and world-class William and Lynda Steere Herbarium, during which students will learn how botanists approach research in this crucial field.

- **Landscape Design History for Beginners**

Session Dates: Wednesday, April 3–May 15, 2024; May 1–June 12, 2024; and June 5–July 17, 2024

Course Content is Released Online Every Wednesday

NYBG Member \$585/Non-Member \$650

Students "travel the globe" during this six-week survey of European, American, Chinese, Japanese, and Islamic garden traditions and explore a wide range of iconic examples—from private gardens to public parks. They will learn about the theories and principles that have shaped landscape design traditions and design their own pocket garden. This course features pre-recorded lectures as well as a behind-the-scenes virtual tour of the Rare Book and Folio Room of NYBG's LuEsther T. Mertz Library, brimming with treasures of landscape design history from eras past.

- **Orchid Design**

Session Dates: Wednesdays, April 3–May 1, 2024; May 1–29, 2024; and June 5–July 3, 2024

Course Content is Released Online Every Wednesday

NYBG Member \$475/Non-Member \$525

Orchid Design is a four-week course offering students the opportunity to learn the basics of sustainable floral design through this iconic flowering plant. This course teaches how to create stunning arrangements, step-by-step, with simple design principles and easy-to-find materials. Students will gain confidence in skills by creating three orchid arrangements as part of a learning community, while exploring the fascinating history of these enigmatic flowers. The class includes pre-recorded lectures and behind-the-scenes footage from NYBG's renowned annual exhibition, *The Orchid Show*, and The Orchid Dinner.

- **Container Gardening**

Session Dates: Wednesdays, April 3–May 1, 2024; May 1–29, 2024; and June 5–July 3, 2024

Course Content is Released Online Every Wednesday

NYBG Member \$475/Non-Member \$525

Over the course of four weeks, students will design, plant, and care for a container garden that's both functional and full of four-season beauty. This course teaches the basics of choosing plants and using materials like potting soil, as well as easy maintenance skills needed to make any container planting a thriving success. Students will gain confidence in their skills as they create a container garden while receiving feedback from NYBG plant professionals. This course features pre-recorded lectures, including a special behind-the-scenes segment with gardener Steve Silk, creator of the “thriller, filler, spiller” formula for achieving stunning containers.

- **Pruning Basics**

Session Dates: Wednesday, April 3–17, 2024; May 1–15, 2024; and June 5–19, 2024

Course Content is Released Online Every Wednesday

NYBG Member \$240/Non-Member \$265

In just two weeks, students will learn to prune like professionals as NYBG plant experts guide them through essential pruning techniques for woody plants like small trees and shrubs, provide insight on why and when to prune, as well as give constructive feedback on the individual pruning project. This course includes pre-recorded lectures and pruning demonstrations filmed across NYBG's 250-acre landscape. To complete Pruning Basics, students will need a woody plant for practice. NYBG plant professionals will answer questions about the practice plant or other related topics at the start of the course.

For more information about NYBG Plant Studio and to register for courses, visit the [web page](#) or call 718.817.8720.

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The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. For more information, visit nybg.org

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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