



Sustainable Horticulture: *The Right Plants, the Right Places, the Right Practices*

Requirement:

Educate visitors on sustainable, synthetic chemical-free horticulture.

Why Do It:

The benefits of gardening are well documented. But not all practices have positive ecological impacts. For example, lawn covers approximately [23%](#) of the US urban land area. 62,000 tons of pesticides are used by homeowners each year and 400 trillion gallons of municipal water are used for irrigation of lawns each summer [day](#). Public gardens can provide guidance to guests to help them bring beauty and sustainability to their own backyards, helping to improve ecosystem services, foster feelings of connectedness to nature and even provide positive health outcomes for practitioners.

How it Works:

Phipps engages audiences concerning sustainable horticulture practices in person on-site and in the community, as well as through the website.

Online Greener Gardening Guide

- [Sustainable Landcare Principles](#)
 - These nine key principles drive our work in sustainable landcare and form our understanding of why we care for the land the way that we do.
- [Annual Top Ten Sustainable Plants List](#)
 - Phipps offers an annual list of Top 10 Sustainable Plants, selected for their non-invasive habits, as well as for their resistance to disease and insects. Once established, these plants require minimal watering and fertilization. Many of these plants are on display in the Outdoor Garden at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.
- [Smart Seed Shopping](#)
 - To help the public make decisions, we've compiled a list of seed vendors for your reference, with ownership information, organic availability and GMO policies for each.

- [Eco-Friendly Pest Management Guide](#)
 - This two-part resource is intended to provide information about practices and products to address common pest problems for the average homeowner.
- [Recommended Local Nurseries](#)
 - Area nurseries have joined with Phipps to educate consumers and to promote sustainable plants and earth-friendly landscaping practices.
- [12-Month Gardening Tips](#)
 - This season-by-season guide to better yields and greater enjoyment.
- [Greener Gardening Blog](#)
 - This blog series tackles questions and topics about how home gardeners can make their lawn and landscape more beautiful and sustainable.

Classes

- [Sustainable Horticulture Certificate](#)
 - This program consists of a series of core courses that includes Basic and Advanced Horticulture, Soils, Diagnosing Plant Problems and Botany for Gardeners. These classes teach best management practices necessary for gardening with minimal ecological impact. Electives further enhance students' understanding of sustainable practices that help protect soil health, water resources, air quality and land usage, and result in the creation of aesthetically pleasing gardens.
- [Landscape and Garden Design](#)
 - The objective of the Landscape and Garden Design Certificate program is to prepare students to apply basic design principles and techniques in creating beautiful, environmentally responsible landscapes. Utilizing graphic skills and plant knowledge, students will work through the design process to develop a presentation plan.
- [Native Plant Landscapes](#)
 - The Native Plant Landscapes Certificate program consists of a series of courses designed for participants to learn to appreciate and use native plants, discover the importance of habitats and ecosystems, and explore how native plants can fit into our gardens.

- [Sustainable Landcare Services](#)

- To meet the increasing demand for sustainable land care, Phipps offers training for landscape and lawn care professionals who care about their work and know that a healthy and beautiful home landscape is directly related to human health and the health of our environment.

Why This Works:

Museums are considered highly credible sources of information and considered to be [trustworthy](#). Phipps, like all public gardens, are seen as trusted horticultural experts. By leveraging this expertise and trust, gardens are able to facilitate more sustainable gardening practices at people's homes, expanding the reach beyond our glass houses and garden walls.

Obstacles:

Nothing significant.

Messaging:

You, too, can experience the joy of gardening at home in a way that is good for you, good for the planet, and beautiful.