



Native Garden of Blue Hill

Sustainable Landscape & Garden Management

Course Description and Schedule

Introduction and Orientation

February 24, Zoom, 6 – 8:30 pm. Review the expectations for the course, regular homework assignments and develop a common vocabulary as classmates get to know one another and the instructors. Instructors: Avy Claire, Marjorie Peronto, and Cathy Rees.

Understanding Plants

February 28, Live in Blue Hill, 9-12. Learn about plant parts and their functions, key plant characteristics, and how to identify plants using keys and other resources. Instructors: Avy Claire and Cathy Rees.

Choosing and Using Native Plants

February 28, Live in Blue Hill, 1-4. Choosing and Using Native Plants. Learn about natural plant communities in Maine, the importance of matching plants to site characteristics, how to add more native species to traditional gardens, and using native plants to enhance habitat. Instructors: Cathy Rees and Marjorie Peronto.

Lawns and transitioning to Natives

March 17, Zoom, 6-8:630 pm. Learn about selecting grasses, establishing a lawn and optimal ways to maintain a lawn. Learn about diversifying a lawn and native plants as lawn alternatives. Instructor: Gary Fish.

Site Assessment and Management

March 28, Live in Blue Hill, 9-12. Learn about the landscape context of any site using available digital resources and practice on-the-ground observation. Learn about site management techniques and best practices. Instructors: Cathy Rees and Avy Claire.

Dormant Season Pruning

March 28, Live in Blue Hill, 1-4. Understand the goals and effects of timing and various pruning strategies in order to build pruning skills, tool choice and confidence. Instructors: Marjorie Peronto and Cathy Rees.

Professionalism in Horticulture

April 28, Zoom, 6-8:30 pm. Learn about starting a business, working with clients and other contractors, keeping records, how to continue learning and earn various certifications. Instructors: Ivonne Vazquez and Cathy Rees.

Integrated Pest Management

May 12, Zoom, 6-8:30 pm. Learn about the IPM method and how to recognize and manage common disease, insect and weed problems in the garden. Instructor: Manjot Sidhu.

Understanding Soil and Compost

May 16, Live in Blue Hill, 9-12. Learn about soil texture, structure, organic matter and how gardening practices and natural processes impact soil characteristics. Learn about composting methods and practices for healthy soil building. Instructors: Marjorie Peronto and Cathy Rees.

Healthy Garden Practices

May 16, Live in Blue Hill, 1-4. Learn how to plant, transplant, divide, stake and care for plants in the garden. Learn about weeding, watering, proper tool selection and usage. Instructors: Avy Claire and Marjorie Peronto.

Working with Garden Plans

June 13, Live in Blue Hill, 9-12. Learn how to lay out a garden according to a plan and how to transfer an existing garden to a plan on paper. Instructors: Avy Claire and Cathy Rees.

Summer Pruning and Managing Harmful Plants

June 13, Live in Blue Hill, 1-4. Learn how to prune for shape and aesthetics while considering surrounding plants and structures. Learn about invasive plants and strategies for management. Instructors: Marjorie Peronto and Diana Chamberlain.