The Farm at the Arb - Sustainable Horticulture Program is offered each year from February to October. Applications are due in the fall.

This hands-on, technical training in vegetable growing is designed for beginning growers, skilled workers and career changes. Are you looking to pursue a career in sustainable food production for sale and community health? The USDA defines a beginning farmer as someone who has ten years of experience or less - The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum helps individuals begin or continue their career as vegetable growers.

The program is offered in collaboration with the University of Minnesota Department of Horticultural Sciences and Extension. Participants receive a combination of classroom, lab and field experience. This includes a 14 week paid work experience at the Arboretum and partnering farms.

**Core Curriculum**

The focus is on annual vegetable production, using a hands-on, plain language, and team-focused approach. Coursework includes greenhouse and raised-bed production, soil science, plant healthcare, food safety, and more throughout the program. Instructors are UMN educators and professional guest speakers who have established horticultural careers and deep experience in particular aspects of sustainable growing and marketing.

Curriculum components are adapted from UMN Extension Master Gardener and Agricultural Production resources, Growing for Market trade publications, and coursework from the UMN Horticultural Sciences Department.

**Priorities and Environmental Literacy**

Horticulture skills can be used to promote access to nature, local food, plant and pollinator diversity, and clean water. They enable us to create resilient landscapes that are adapted to our climate. We encourage participants to join a community of practice, whose mission is to advance horticultural knowledge while growing for defined markets.

For more information visit: https://arb.umn.edu/content/sustainable-horticulture-training-program
Thank you for your interest in the 2021 program. We are excited to announce the 2021 recruitment process.

1. **Complete the following application:**
   Farm at the Arb admissions form:
   [https://z.umn.edu/FarmArb2021](https://z.umn.edu/FarmArb2021)

2. **Attend a mandatory two-hour information session via ZOOM**
   - December 22nd, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
   - December 28th, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
   - December 29th, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
   - January 4th, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
   - January 5th, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

3. **Attend one Interview Days 2021:**
   MN Landscape Arboretum Red Barn -
   3210 82nd St W Chaska, MN 55318:
   - December 30th, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
   - January 7th, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
   - January 11th, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions, we look forward to meeting you at an information session.

The University of Minnesota recognizes and values the importance of diversity and inclusion in enriching the employment experience of its employees and in supporting the academic mission. The University is committed to attracting and retaining employees with varying identities and backgrounds.

The University of Minnesota provides equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

To learn more about diversity at the U: [http://diversity.umn.edu](http://diversity.umn.edu)
FARM AT THE ARB - SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE PROGRAM 2021

Spring Schedule  
February 1st - May 21st  
Monday, 9 am – 1 pm.  
Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 am – 3 pm

Paid Work Experience  
May 25th - August 29th  
14 - weeks at partnering farm sites

Fall Schedule  
August 30th – October 8th  
Monday and Thursday, 9 am – 12 pm. Tuesday and Wednesday 8 am - 12 am

Program Overview: 450 Contact Hours, up to 525 Paid Hours
In the spring semester, the program focuses on the foundations of sustainable agriculture: horticultural plant science, soil fertility, pest management, greenhouse production, and post-harvest handling techniques. The program also includes exposure to specialty topics by guest lecturers. Participants also explore environmentalism and community building in group activities and discussions. The program structure is made of lectures, lab activities, and fieldwork to develop an employable and problem-solving grower with applicable skills to the industry.

During the summer paid work experience, participants will work a minimum of 24 hours per week on a commercial vegetable farm or garden. This intensive work experience applies concepts learned in the spring semester. While on internship, the participant must complete an independent pest and disease management project, S.M.A.R.T goals, and a detailed notebook on farm management.

After the summer, the participant creates a crop plan for the following year. The participant develops this plan in collaboration with a partner, and presents the plan in a public forum. Participants continue field work at farm sites, completing their skill sets for the program. Finally, students create an up-to-date resume, a horticulture cover letter, and participate in a mock horticulture job interview.
SPRING SCHEDULE

Week 1: Intro to Sustainable Horticulture Program; Intro to Sustainable Farming

Week 2: General Botany: Plant Parts and Processes; Fundamentals of Environmental Literacy and Water

Week 3: Greenhouse Production: Concepts, Seeding; Fundamentals: Health, Food and Agriculture

Week 4: General Botany: Plant Reproduction and Seeds; Fundamentals: Social Entrepreneurship and Community Organizing

Week 5: Greenhouse Production; Watering in Agriculture; Perennials Overview; Food Safety, Harvest and Market Training

Weeks 6-8: Outdoor Production: Site Planning, Vegetable Cropping Systems, Crop Specifics and Resources, Tilling, Transplanting, Building and Other Techniques

Week 9: Soil Physical Properties; Soil in marginal areas: Practicalities, Land Access, and site maintenance

Week 10: Compost & Soil Ecology

Week 11: Soil Chemical Properties; Reading Soil and Compost Reports; Identifying Plant Deficiencies

Week 12: Plant Health Care: Integrated Pest Management; Insect Pests and Beneficial Insects

Week 13: Plant Health Care: Managing Plant Pathogens

Week 14: Ecological Weed Management; GAPS Training; Small Farm Food Safety

Week 15: Harvest Efficiency and Post-Harvest Handling Revisited; Intro to Beekeeping

Week 16: Farm and Market Garden Reports;

SUMMER AND FALL

Weeks 17-30: Full time, paid work experience at Landscape Arboretum or partner farm site. IPM assignment: Complete weekly IPM assessment and logging of a particular field/crop/pest.

Weeks 31-36: Crop Planning and internship presentations, Employability workshops, and Field Days