**FARM AT THE ARB - SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE PROGRAM**

**Spring Schedule**  
February 3rd - May 22nd  
Monday, 9 am – 1pm.  
Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 am – 3 pm

**Paid Work Experience**  
May 26th - August 30th  
14 - weeks at partnering farm sites

**Fall Schedule**  
September 1st – October 8th  
Monday and Thursday, 9 am – 12 pm. Tuesday and Wednesday 8 am - 12 am

**Program Philosophy:**  
The Landscape Arboretum Sustainable Horticulture program is designed for beginning growers, skilled workers, and career changers looking to pursue a career in sustainable food production. We encourage participants to join a community of practice whose mission is to advance horticultural knowledge while growing for defined markets. We offer a curriculum created from a variety of sources, instructed by teachers with established horticulture careers that serves the needs of diverse learners. The USDA defines a “beginning farmer” as someone who has farmed for 10 years or less – the Landscape Arboretum helps its students begin or continue their career as vegetable growers.

**Program Overview: 450 Contact Hours, up to 525 Paid Hours, up to 12 UMN Credits**

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

Subject to change with notification

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

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