Course Syllabus

Learning Objectives

Successfully identify selected landscape plants in the field using both common, botanical and family names using basic plant morphology and identification characteristics.

Recognize significant attributes (e.g. culture, ornamental interest, landscape use and pest problems) of common landscape plants.

Recognize categories of significant landscape plant forms (groundcovers, shrubs, trees).

Lecture Sessions

Lecture sessions cover the important attributes of plants found in the landscape and commonly used in landscape design. In this semester, deciduous trees and shrubs, groundcovers and evergreens will be covered. Written examinations cover a wider area and focus on a variety of plant attributes including culture, ornamental interest, landscape use and pest problems.

Lab sessions

The focus of the lab session is the practical identification of plants in the field. Basic plant morphology and identification characteristics are emphasized. The lab sessions are held on the Cook/Douglass campus or at the Rutgers Gardens. Class goes on in almost all weather conditions so students should dress accordingly. The lab ID tests consist of field identification of plants using both botanical and common names.

Grading:

Final Grades are based upon 2 I.D. tests, 2 written exams, online quizzes and attendance, the breakdown is as follows;

ID tests (lab) – 40%
Weekly on-line quizzes – 10%
Midterm exam – 20%
Final exam – 20%
Attendance – 10%
References:
The main reference for the course is ‘The Manual of Woody Landscape Plants’ by Michael A. Dirr. It can also be ordered on-line. A copy is on reserve in the LA library in Blake, 113.

Other references:
‘Dirr’s Hardy Trees and Shrubs’ by Michael A. Dirr
‘Dirr’s Trees and Shrubs for Warmer Climates’ by Michael A. Dirr
‘The Tree Identification Book’ by Symonds
‘The Shrub Identification Book’ by Symonds
‘New Jersey’s Great Gardens’ by Arlene Zatz
‘Manual of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs’ by Alfred Rehder
‘Trees of the eastern and central US and Canada’ by William H. Harlow
‘Plant Communities of NJ, A Study in Landscape Diversity’ by Collins and Anderson
‘Fruit Key and Twig Key to Trees and Shrubs’ by William H. Harlow
Ohio State Plant Facts – http://plantfacts.osu.edu/
University of Tennesee Woody Plant Identification site – http://utgardens.tenessee.edu/ohl220/index.htm,
http://www.rhododendron.org/
http://www.iselinursery.com
http://www.coenosium.com/

Course web-site:
Everyone registered for the course should have access to the course website via Sakai (sakai.rutgers.edu). Class materials, assignments and schedules will be posted on line.

• You will be expected to visit the website weekly to take an on-line quiz and review the schedule.
• You can retake the quiz as many times as you want before it is due to improve your grade.