Course Summary

Lecture Sessions
Lecture sessions cover the important attributes of plants commonly found in the New Jersey landscape. The first semester of the yearlong course focuses on deciduous trees and shrubs as well as groundcovers. A broader range of plants and information is covered in the lecture than in the lab sessions. Written examinations cover this 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 at either the Rutgers Gardens or on the Cook/Douglass campus. 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% (graduate students must also know plant families)
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/
http://www.rhododendron.org/
http://www.iselinursery.com/
http://www.coenosium.com/
http://lyra.ifas.ufl.edu/NorthernTrees/

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.

Rutgers Plant Database:

We are in the process of cataloguing the landscape plants at Cook Campus and Rutgers Gardens. A beta version of a web-site is now running which has pictures and locations of some of these plants. It can be found at: http://landarch.rutgers.edu/Landplants/master/Pages/Index1.html.

Feel free to use this as a study resource but be aware that there are some textual errors and several broken links. We will work to improve this resource during the year. (2014 note – This database has not been touched since 2008 and in its current condition may not be the best resource to use.)