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Serving veterans, persons with disabilities, and those re-entering the workforce.

(510) 390-7001
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Course Description/Class Syllabus

Gardening and Landscaping Certificate Program

Instructor: Gabriel Gartland, ggartland@pccsonline.org

OVERVIEW:

This course devotes 32 hours of instruction conducted in an in-person setting, with access to an outdoor environment suitable for urban plant cultivation. Class schedules are available on the Pacific Coast Community Services website and may be adjusted based on student availability, cohort scheduling, and climate conditions.

This comprehensive training program is designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the dynamic gardening and landscaping industries. Through a hands-on, real-world curriculum, students will gain valuable experience and insight into modern and tested industry techniques, as well as sustainable best practices.

The course is designed to provide a practical learning environment where students can master essential skills such as tool use and safety, composting, plant identification and layout, nursery and gardening maintenance tasks, irrigation techniques, and sustainable cultivation principles. The training aligns with the most sought-after skills and knowledge in the gardening and landscaping industry, ensuring participants are truly employment ready.

INDUSTRY RELATED JOB TITLES:

- **Grounds Maintenance Workers**
 - Perform tasks such as mowing, trimming, planting, and watering plants, trees, and flowers in gardens and landscapes.
 - Maintain outdoor areas by removing weeds, dead plants, and debris.
 - Operate and maintain landscaping equipment such as lawnmowers, trimmers, and power tools.

- **Landscape Technicians**
 - Assist with the design, installation, and maintenance of landscape projects, including the planting of trees, shrubs, and flowers.
 - Install irrigation systems, retaining walls, and other landscape features.
 - Apply fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides to maintain plant health and control pests.

- **Nursery Workers**
 - Grow and care for plants, trees, and flowers in nurseries and greenhouses.
 - Propagate plants from seeds, cuttings, or grafting.
 - Maintain plant inventory, monitor growth, and ensure plants receive proper watering, fertilization, and pest management.

- **Gardeners**
 - Maintain gardens and landscapes by planting, watering, pruning, and fertilizing plants.
 - Develop garden plans, including plant placement and design.
 - Identify and manage plant diseases, pests, and weeds.

- **Landscape Designers/Assistants**
 - Assist in the planning and design of outdoor spaces, selecting appropriate plants, materials and décor.
 - Create garden layouts and help prepare cost estimates for landscaping projects.
 - Work closely with clients to understand their preferences and design landscapes that meet their needs.

- **Irrigation Technicians**
 - Install, maintain, and repair irrigation systems to ensure optimal watering of plants and landscapes.
 - Conduct regular inspections of irrigation systems, adjust settings, and make repairs.
 - Collaborate with teams to integrate irrigation plans into overall garden designs.

- **Sustainable Landscaping Specialists**
 - Design and implement eco-friendly landscaping practices, focusing on water conservation, soil health, and native plantings.
 - Educate clients about sustainable gardening techniques, such as composting, mulching, and using drought-resistant plants.
 - Implement organic pest control methods and promote biodiversity in landscape designs.

- **Horticultural Assistants**
 - Provide support to horticulturists in maintaining private and/or public plant collections in gardens, parks or nurseries.
 - Assist with plant propagation, pruning, soil preparation, and pest management.
 - Conduct research on plant care and document findings to improve gardening practices.

COURSE TAUGHT IN PERSON: Gardening and Landscaping

Week 1

Session 1: Intro, Safety, Protective Gear, Tool Use/Maintenance

- Class Introduction; Tool Safety; and Best Practices
- Tool Handling Workshop; and Tool Use Identification
- Power Tool Discussion and Demonstration

Session 2: Tool Use and Maintenance Review, Cohort Project Introduction, Soil Introduction

- Cohort Project; Introduction to Soil; Soil Types and Properties
- Tour Project Site; Soil Composition Workshop; Soil Testing
- Soil Erosion Discussion

Week 2

Session 3: The Process and Method of Composting, Plant Identification

- Basics of Composting; Plant Biology/Identification
- Composting Methods Demonstration; Composting Maintenance; REAP Campus Plant Survey
- Transport Compost to Container Garden; Scientific Transect Plant ID

Session 4: Native/Nonnative/Invasive Plants; Pollinators; Tree ID; Plant & Tree Health

- Native Plants Introduction/Identification; Introduction to Pollinators; Tree Identification; Plant Health
- Native/Non-Native Plant Survey; Identify Pollinators; Tree Health Assessment
- Pollinator Observation Log

Week 3

Session 5: Nursery Tasks, Irrigation, and Fertilization

- Nursery Tasks and Organization; Irrigation Systems; Water Conservation; Fertilization Methods (Organic vs. Chemical); Plant Potting & Transplanting
- Set Up of a Basic Irrigation System in Container Garden; Hands-on Fertilizer Application; Plant Seedlings

Session 6: Garden Planting Layout and Design

- Garden Design; Planting
- Mock Garden Design at Permaculture Gardens/Container Gardens; Hands-On Planting at Container Gardens
- Alternative Gardening Methods, and Indigenous Practices

Week 4

Session 7: Maintenance & Long-Term Garden Care

- Seasonal Care and Garden Maintenance Cycles; Pruning and Deadheading Techniques; Mulching and Weed Control; Pest and Disease Management
- Seasonal Garden Maintenance Plan; Pruning Workshop; Mulching Demonstration
- Cohort Project Final Work Day

Session 8: Workplace Expectations, Cohort Project Showcase

- Green Job Expectations; Peer Review and Discussion
- Finishing Touches on Cohort Project (if necessary); Final Project Presentation
- Closing, Questions, Provide Resources to Students for Future Use
- Present Gardening and Landscaping Training Certificates to Students

Course Provided By:

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