

PLANT IDENTIFICATION SKILLS:
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL, 2019-20
UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER BOTANIC GARDEN

a) Module 1: plant families (£425)* 1st October – 10th December 2019
• classroom and laboratory-based learning

b) Module 2: plant species (£425)* April – June 2019, dates tbc
• six field trips

*Discounts available to LRWT members and Friends of the Garden (£400 per module) or to anyone who pays for both modules in advance (£800).

We recommend that:

- module 1 is preceded by at least one Botany for Beginners module or similar;
- module 2 is preceded by either module 1 or at least three Botany for Beginners modules or similar.

Book securely online by visiting <http://shop.le.ac.uk>

Or please register by completing and returning the form below with a cheque made payable to the *University of Leicester* to:

Administrator, University of Leicester Botanic Garden, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH.

Or email details to: botanicgarden@le.ac.uk

You do not need to return the form providing you send in the relevant details.

Please indicate your module choice(s): module 1 module 2

NAME:

ADDRESS:

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TELEPHONE:

EMAIL:



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Botanic Garden

PLANT
IDENTIFICATION
SKILLS

Intermediate level

Part-time 2019-2020



www.le.ac.uk/botanicgarden

COURSE SCHEDULE**Module 1: plant families**

Venue: classes are held in the Coach House at the Botanic Garden in Oadby, LE2 2NE

Time: Tuesdays, 6.30–9.30 pm

Dates: 1st October – 10th December 2019

Module 2: plant species

Venue: field sites in Leicestershire/Rutland, Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Norfolk.

Time: Sundays, 10am–4pm, x6 all-day field excursions.

Dates: April – June 2020, days tbc.

The module is followed by an optional *Plant Identification Licence* exam on 20th June 2020.

Local botany group

While on the course, you are welcome at field meetings of the Leicestershire & Rutland group of the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland (BSBI). You can see interesting plants, try out your new skills and pick up plant ID tips.

This course is for everyone keen to develop or improve their plant identification skills. We aim to increase your appreciation, enjoyment and understanding of the diversity of the British flora, including many of the plants in your own garden.

We combine lectures, laboratory classes and field trips, and start by teaching you how to identify the main plant groups and important families (module 1, October–December). Then we introduce you to the methods and practice of species identification (module 2, April–June).

We present topics in an evolutionary context to help you understand something of how plants have evolved; we explain the roles played by reproductive biology, geography and ecology; and we help you to become confident using various identification aids, including keys, and equipment such as hand-lenses and dissecting microscopes.

The range of sites we visit on our six field excursions provide you with all-important personal experience and practice.

You will also be invited to attend optional field meetings with the local botany group.



By the end of module 1, you should be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the major plant groups and their evolutionary relationships;
- identify any land plant to the level of class;
- be able to construct a floral formula;
- identify all the commoner vascular plant families found wild in the British Isles;
- use a hand-lens and dissecting microscope properly.



By the end of module 2, you should be able to:

- identify important families & genera by sight;
- use identification keys effectively;
- identify at least 500 species by sight or key;
- prepare botanical specimens & make records;
- understand how species are defined and the roles ecology and reproductive biology play in their origin and distribution.

COURSE INFORMATION**Assessment (optional)**

You will have the option to be assessed on both modules.

Module 1: Laboratory-based ID quiz on 3rd December 2019

Module 2: The exam comprises both laboratory- and field-based components and may be taken at the end of the course, on 20th June 2020. Completion of the exam leads to a *Plant Identification Licence*.

Fees

Module 1: £425*

Module 2: £425*

*Discounts available to LRWT members and Friends of the Garden (£400 per module) or to anyone who pays for both modules in advance (£800).

Teaching staff

- Richard Gornall (Director of the Botanic Garden)
- Uta Hamzaoui (Leics. & Rutland Wildlife Trust)

Contact us

botanicgarden@le.ac.uk

or phone: 0116-271-2933