

Landscape Horticulture

Landscape horticulture involves both the growing of ornamental plants (trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous perennials) and their use in designed, constructed landscapes. Such designed environments are not just “pretty;” they add functionality by modulating temperature, abating noise, reducing glare, and increasing privacy and security. Closely associated with the art of gardening, landscape horticulture also involves the science of plants and the business associated with producing and using these plants. Landscape horticulturists must know many different kinds of plants and their basic characteristics; how they grow, develop, reproduce, and adapt to different environments as well as the optimal growing conditions for specific plants and potential problems associated with them, such as pests and diseases. Landscape horticulturists must also know the business of managing plants, landscape projects, and construction materials; they must also know how to manage employees and to deal with customers. The artistry and creativity of landscape design and manipulation allows landscape horticulturists to exercise their creative abilities. Landscape professionals apply this knowledge to enhance our quality of life by developing and managing our environments, residences, commercial operations, roadways, parks, golf courses, and playgrounds.

The landscape horticulture industry is a multi-billion dollar business in Ohio alone. In 2001, the payroll of the local nursery and landscape industry was an estimated \$882.9 million, employing 32,670 year-round full-time workers, 19,124 year-round part-time workers, and 44,782 seasonal workers. Combined sales of landscape services, retail garden centers, and wholesale producers and distributors were nearly \$2.79 billion. Gardening is the number-one outdoor leisure activity of American households; 74 million American households participate in one or more garden activities. That’s a large customer base!

A heightened awareness of our impact on the environment has resulted in the development of landscapes that enhance the relationships between human-made and natural areas. Industry professionals are committed to stewardship, working to pass on to future generations a healthy, sustainable environment and an appreciation for the protection and management of natural ecosystems.

Pursuing Landscape Horticulture at Ohio State (Columbus)

Students interested in landscape horticulture as a major should develop a high school program emphasizing the sciences, but also exploring creative interests in art and design. Proficiency in Spanish is extremely useful as well. All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicants’ high school preparation program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade point average, and

performance on either the ACT or SAT.

Admitted student who indicate their major as landscape horticulture on their application are directly enrolled into the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences as a first quarter freshman. One-on-one advising by faculty is a hallmark of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Each landscape horticulture student is assigned a faculty advisor from the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science to assist the student in program planning and is available for academic consultation. Students take a survey course in their first quarter to gain familiarity with academic procedures, resources, requirements, and career opportunities.

Landscape Horticulture Requirements

Students majoring in landscape horticulture take courses that introduce them to the profession through site visits and interactions with current professionals. In addition, they take courses in plant biology, plant materials, plant selection and planning, landscape management, and nursery management. Majors are strongly urged to master at least conversational Spanish.

Professional support courses provide instruction in key knowledge areas, such as land surveying, soil science, agribusiness management, insect and disease control, design of small gardens and properties, and computers in horticulture management.

A wide array of minors are available to students majoring in landscape horticulture, including landscape construction, agribusiness, natural resource management, plant pathology, and entomology.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Study Abroad Opportunities - An international experience provides an education one does not receive in a classroom or from a textbook, and is an invaluable aid in today’s global market. While abroad, students complete three courses for fifteen hours of credit that may be applied towards the major (in one case), a minor, free electives or General Education Requirements. The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences currently sponsors opportunities for students to study abroad in Australia, the Dominican Republic, China, England, South Africa, Poland, Russia, Mexico and the Czech Republic. The program in England is specifically geared for students in Landscape Horticulture and Landscape Architecture; the 15 credits earned in this program can count towards the major.

Student Organizations - The Landscape and Floriculture Forum (L.A.F.F.) promotes social relationships among students with interests in ornamental horticulture, and brings the students into

For more information, check these web sites:

Horticulture & Crop Science: hcs.osu.edu

College of Food, Agricultural, & Environmental Sciences:
cfaes.osu.edu

Plant Science Careers: enPlant.osu.edu

Ohio State: osu.edu

Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a degree in Landscape Horticulture. Since university students need more than a specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Landscape Horticulture. Consult the departmental web site, hcs.osu.edu, for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:

Science of Growing Plants	5
General Plant Biology	5
Freshman English	5
History	5
Introductory Sociology	5
Chemistry sequence	10
College Algebra	4
Introduction to Plant Biology	5
Agricultural Survey	1
Total hours	45

Sophomore Year:

Horticulture Industry Tour	1
Soil Science	3
Data Analysis	5
Herbaceous Ornamental Plants	5
GEC (literature)	5
Second writing course	5
GEC (natural sciences)	5
Oral Expression	5
Microeconomics	5
GEC (social science)	5
Total hours	44

Junior Year:

HCS Electives	18
Minor	15
Plant Identification	6
GEC (arts and humanities)	5
Internship	5
Total hours	49

Senior Year:

Quality, Ethics and the global Environment	5
Minor	18
Contemporary Issues	5
Electives	7
HCS Electives	10
Total hours	45

closer contact with the faculty. L.A.F.F. provides programs related to the broad scope of ornamental horticulture. Pi Alpha Xi is a national honor society for undergraduate and graduate students in floriculture, ornamental horticulture, and landscape horticulture. Its purpose is to promote fellowship between students, educators, and the professional horticultural community who share in belief of enrichment of human life through plants.

Honors & Scholars Programs

Incoming first year students in the top 10% of their high school graduating class with an ACT composite of 30 or higher or combined SAT Critical Reading and Math scores of 1340 or higher are offered admission to the University Honors program. The honors program is designed to challenge superior ability students. It is based on the concepts of flexibility in course selection, accelerated or advanced classes, and an honors research or scholarly project. Course flexibility enables the honors student to achieve breadth and depth in the academic program and to define academic growth in a more personal way. Honors program students are given priority scheduling. Students completing honors courses have these designated on their transcripts with an "H" before the course, and those who complete the honors program satisfactorily, meeting all requirements, will graduate "with distinction" in their area of specialization. Enrolled students may also apply to the Honors program by submitting an Individualized Honors Curriculum after earning at least a 3.5 CPHR on 30 hours at Ohio State. Student must also maintain at least a 3.5 CPHR to remain in honors.

Career Prospects in Landscape Horticulture

Career opportunities for landscape horticulturists range from production (wholesale and retail) to design/construction/maintenance, from management to marketing, and from research to teaching. A landscape horticulturist may, for example, contribute to the use of ornamental plants in landscaping private homes, commercial parks, botanical gardens, and highways, as well as producing and selling these crops.

With a degree in landscape horticulture, a student could also be employed as a purchasing agent, teacher, designer-landscaper, florist, researcher, biotechnologist, sales representative, plant breeder, interiorscaper, nursery or garden center manager, pest management consultant, horticulture therapist, or public garden horticulturist, among other professions.

Beginning annual salaries for landscape horticulture graduates average \$30,600. Salaries vary depending on location, the candidate's skills, and previous job-related experience.

More About Landscape Horticulture

Students are also required to go on at least one internship locally, nationally, or internationally. The Student Services Coordinator and the landscape horticulture faculty provide counseling and advice on choosing an appropriate internship.

In addition to formal internships, part-time employment is available in the campus area.

Revised July 2007. For the most up-to-date information on the landscape horticulture program, please visit hcs.osu.edu.

Contact information:

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