

The grapevine...

MCC Horticulture Program Newsletter

December 2011

Notes from the MCC Horticulture Department ...

Spring 2012 semester is approaching fast; if you plan on taking courses **please register ASAP**. Complete information is found in this newsletter. The semester schedule includes the debut of a fruit and vegetable production class, offered as a HRT 290 Topics course. HRT 105 *Introduction to Soil Science* is available as a night section and does not conflict with any other HRT courses. HRT 231 *Spring Greenhouse Production* no longer has a prerequisite and HRT 251 *Turf & Ornamental IPM* debuts in the blended format, with most of the class now online.

If you have questions related to courses set for spring or beyond, email Horticulture Department Chair Bruce Spangenberg at bspangenberg@mchenry.edu or call 815-479-7522.

The *Mid-America Horticulture Trade Show* is set for January 17-20, 2012 at Navy Pier in Chicago. Student Career Center activities are Thursday, January 19; a great chance to explore horticulture employment opportunities. See page 4 for more details.

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Horticulture Courses for Spring Semester 2012

Look for further details on pages 2 and 3; also visit the college website at www.mchenry.edu for the spring schedule and also the latest MCC catalog.

HRT 103 *Introduction to Plant Science*
8:30 am -11:20 am Monday/Wednesday
1:00 pm – 3:50 pm Monday/Wednesday

HRT 105 *Introduction to Soil Science*
6:00 –8:50 pm Monday/Tuesday

HRT 125 *Intermediate Floral Design*
8:30 am - 12:20 pm OR
6:15 -10:05 pm Wednesday

HRT 159 *Landscape Perennials*
6:00 - 9:50 pm Wednesday

HRT 222 *Flower Shop Management*
6:00 - 8:50 pm Monday

HRT 231 *Spring Greenhouse Production*
6:15 – 10:05 pm Thursday

HRT 250 *Horticulture Internship*

HRT 251 *Turf & Ornamental IPM*
8:30- 11:20 am Tuesday (blended)

HRT 266 *Landscape Construction*
6:15-10:05 pm Thursday

HRT 290 *Fruit & Vegetable Production*
8:30 -12:20 pm Thursday

HRT 299 *Horticulture Independent Study*

Summer 2012 Classes

HRT 264 Arboriculture

HRT 181 Turf & Lawn Management

HRT 103 Introduction to Plant Science

Spring 2012 Horticulture Courses & Descriptions

Register Now!

**** = no prerequisite required**

****HRT 103 Introduction to Plant Science**

In addition to being a Horticulture core requirement, this course is also popular to meet life/lab science requirements for many curriculums and transfer needs of MCC students. Plant Science covers all areas of botany; including plant structure, function, and growth. This spring sections are available on Monday & Wednesday from 8:30 to 11:20 am; and also 1:00 to 3:50 pm. Horticulture instructor Bruce Spangenberg will be teaching both sections.

At print both sections were full for spring. This could change and spots open as the semester gets closer. In addition, a summer section will be again available in 2012, meeting Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings starting in June. Watch for the summer session schedule to be available in early spring. There will also be 3 sections again in fall 2012.

**** HRT 105 Introduction to Soil Science**

Soil Science covers a variety of topics concerning soil development, characteristics, and management through lecture and hands-on lab exercises. This semester soil science is offered Monday and Tuesday evening and is taught by Bruce Spangenberg. As with HRT 103, this is Horticulture core requirement and also meets science needs for other curriculums here at MCC. *If you prefer to take this course at night, plan on this spring as it will be offered during the day for both 2013 and 2014 spring semesters.*

HRT 125 Intermediate Floral Design

Gena Archambeau teaches the second course in the Floral Design sequence, *Intermediate Floral Design*, with both a morning and evening section again available this spring semester. Topics include floral techniques in the development of design principles, quality arrangements, and advanced floral assembly. Only offered in spring semester, sections are available on Wednesdays; either 8:30 am to 12:20 pm OR 6:15 - 10:05 pm. (Prerequisite is HRT 120).

**** HRT 159 Landscape Perennials**

Learn all about herbaceous perennial plant materials for both shade and sun areas and how to apply them to landscape design; including hands-on identification of plant material and planning activities. Joanne York will again be teaching this popular course on Wednesday night *starting February 1 and ending May 23. (The 2-week delay start offers more daylight in late spring for outside activity)*

HRT 231 Spring Greenhouse Production

Spring Greenhouse Production focuses on the production of spring crops and bedding plants. Mark Martin will be teaching HRT 231 on Thursday nights this spring. Learn all about scheduling, planting, care, and solving problems associated with producing spring greenhouse crops. This course ends with the MCC bedding plant sale at the end of the semester. Please note; this course no longer has the prerequisite of HRT 130 Fall Greenhouse Production. .

HRT 251 Turf & Ornamental IPM

The second of the pest/plant problem management courses focuses on the latest Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices for horticulture plantings. Monitoring, trapping, thresholds, forecasting methods, and using both traditional and alternative pest management materials and methods are among the topics covered. *The prerequisite is HRT 150; however students with other pest management coursework or experience may consider enrolling with a prerequisite waiver; see Bruce Spangenberg on this.*

In addition, HRT 251 is now offered in a blended format, with just a few classroom meetings on Tuesday mornings and most of the course to be taught online.

HRT 266 Landscape Construction

Landscape construction is the study of installing landscape components from planning to finish. Topics of discussion include site analysis and measurements, reading blueprints, site preparation, and both specific installation and construction techniques. Retaining walls, patios and walkways, decks, planters, raised beds, and water features are among the specific landscape features included, along with installation of plant material. Prerequisite HRT 161 Landscape Design. Taught by Doug Wilbrandt. *This course is only offered in spring of even years, starting in 2012.*

****HRT 290 Fruit & Vegetable Production**

This is the first time for a course on fruit and vegetable production. Plans are to add this to the curriculum as a catalog course with its own number, but this first time is under HRT 290 Topics.

Fruit and Vegetable Production will cover growing fruit and vegetable crops in northern Illinois from the planning stages through harvest. Hardy fruit crops appropriate for our area along with specific vegetable crops will be discussed in detail, including cultivar selection, cultural needs, pest management, and harvesting. Bruce Spangenberg will be teaching this course on Thursday mornings.

Intersession/Summer 2012 Courses

HRT 264 Arboriculture

This new course made its debut in spring 2011. It did not make the spring 2012 schedule but will be offered in May (intersession) and running until early July. The class will be meeting 2 nights a week in that 8 week time period.

Arboriculture offers a practical approach to the care of trees, shrubs, and vines growing in landscapes, parks, and municipal areas. Among topics studied in-depth include site analysis and preparation, selecting plant material, planting procedures, watering, mulching, fertilizing, pruning, weed and brush control, pest and disease management, and assessing tree health and hazards. *The prerequisite is HRT 160 Trees & Shrubs in the Landscape; but if you have equivalent training or experience in tree identification, that can be waived.*

****HRT 181 Turf & Lawn Management**

Turf & Lawn Management has been taught in the blended format the past several times it has been offered. Labs are taught in the classroom but the majority of coursework is online. It will be available this summer, starting in June and running until early August.

All areas of turf management are covered; including grass selection, establishment, cultural practices, and pest management.

****HRT 103 Introduction to Plant Science**

A summer session of this popular course will be offered starting in June. The class will meet 3 days a week, 8:30 am to 12:20 pm, until early August.

Looking for a job or potential internship in Horticulture? Interested in meetings or educational programs related to horticulture? Check the Horticulture Information Board in Building D on a regular basis this winter and spring when you are on campus at MCC.

To post a notice, contact Bruce Spangenberg at 815-479-7522. Information may be sent via mail (8900 U.S. Highway 14, Crystal Lake 60012); fax (815/479-7855); or email bspangenberg@mchenry.edu.

Please note: All information posted must be approved by the Horticulture Department. All other postings will be removed immediately.

Wanted: Horticulture Internships

An internship in horticulture (HRT 250) is required for students completing the A.A.S. Degree in Horticulture. Students have the opportunity to earn MCC credit while employed in the field of horticulture. One credit hour equals 80 hours on the job.

For employers, we are always looking for positions to potentially place students so they can learn more about the industry. If you have or anticipate a need to fill part-time or temporary positions that may fit as an internship opportunity for students, please contact Bruce Spangenberg. (contact information above).

Students; if you find a position that may qualify, also please contact Bruce Spangenberg to discuss the possibility of using it as an internship.

Students pursuing the A.A.S. Degree and already working or with experience in the field may qualify to waive the requirement for HRT 250 and substitute another 3 credit course in its place.

HRT Catalog Changes

A few catalog changes were recently approved and will be in the upcoming 2012 MCC catalog.

HRT 266 Landscape Construction

Offered spring semester of *even* years only

HRT 271 Woody Plant Propagation

Offered spring semester of *odd* years only

Prerequisite of HRT 103 Intro Plant Science

HRT 160 *Trees & Shrubs in the Landscape* suggested

HRT 251 Turf & Ornamental IPM

Blended format with majority of course work online

Gardenfest April 14, 2012

This popular annual event held at MCC on Saturday, April 14th 2012 will feature keynote speaker Ed Lyon and over 30 other breakout sessions for both beginner and experienced gardeners.

Ed Lyon is Garden Director of Allen Centennial Gardens on the campus of the University of Wisconsin at Madison. This popular 2.5 acre public garden also serves as a living classroom for horticulture students. Featured in the gardens are a number of herbaceous and woody ornamental plants suitable for use in the upper Midwest. There are 21 themed gardens among the plantings and include perennials, ornamental grasses, shrubs, trees, conifers, and tropicals.

Registration materials for Gardenfest will be available in February 2012. For additional information, email mccconferencecenter@mchenry.edu or call either Amy Carzoli, (815) 455-8764 or Kristine Emrich, (815) 479-7570.

Gardenfest is an annual educational event co-sponsored by MCC and University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners of McHenry County. The program began in the late 1980s.

MID-AM Horticulture Trade Show

The 2012 MID-AM Horticulture Trade Show is set for January 17-20, 2012 at of Navy Pier in Chicago. The **Student Career Center is set for Thursday, January 19, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm**. This event is designed for students interested in a career in horticulture. Students have the opportunity to meet informally with employers who will conduct brief interviews and discuss potential employment.

Students registering in advance receive discounted rate of \$15 for the trade show (by 1/17/12). On-site registration for the trade show is \$20. This is a great opportunity to see and discuss many of the latest products of the green industry with industry experts face-to-face.

For more details on all events scheduled go to the MID-AM website at www.midam.org.

Planning Ahead – Day versus Night

We try to balance horticulture course offerings as much as possible to meet student schedule preferences. Some courses are only available in the evening as they are taught by Adjunct Faculty with full-time jobs during the day. Others are rotated between day and night. To help plan ahead, here are some horticulture core course plans for the next 2 years.

HRT 105 *Introduction to Soil Science*

Day: Spring 2013 and 2014

Night: Spring 2012

HRT 150 *Plant Problem Diagnosis & Management*

Day: Fall 2013

Night: Fall 2012

HRT 251 *Turf & Ornamental IPM*

Now blended format, so only a few classroom meetings; rest of course online

Night: Spring 2013

Day: Spring 2012

McHenry County College Website

Looking for information on credit courses, non-credit classes, and events here at McHenry County College? One source available from the comfort of your personal computer is the McHenry County College Website; www.mchenry.edu. The entire latest version of the course and curriculum catalog is available online as well.

Bookmark the address and visit the site often!

Important Dates

Spring Semester Weekday Classes Start January 16, 2012
