

HRT 212 Landscape Plants II

example

Instructor: Susan Gruber **E-mail:** grubers@msu.edu **Office Phone:** 517-355-0326

Office: A164 Plant and Soil Sciences **Office Hours:** walk-in anytime M, W, TH

Appointment scheduling: log into student.msu.edu; choose Horticulture as the appointment reason.

Course Objectives:

- To be able to identify approximately 230 plants: evergreen trees, flowering trees and shrubs, broad-leaved evergreens, vines, ground covers, spring wildflowers and bulbs. This includes knowing the scientific name(s), selected cultivars, common name(s), and the plant family. Identification involves seeing parts of or the whole plant.
- To develop an appreciation for the great diversity and beauty of ornamental landscape plants.
- To be able to select plants for specific purposes and site conditions. This includes knowing the environmental requirements of specific plants, their desirable and undesirable characteristics, their landscape uses, and major insect and disease problems.
- To be familiar with the use of keys for identification of plant material.

Highly Recommended Texts:

Dirr, Michael A. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses*. A standard reference that is essential for your personal library. Includes detailed descriptive lists of cultivars. Fifth edition is ok.

Peterson Field Guide to Eastern Trees: Eastern United States and Canada, Including the Midwest
Petrides and Wehr.

Required Materials:

You must have a clipboard for lab walks.

Study Aids:

Twig Collection: We will set up a collection of the plants you are required to know for lab in A152 PSS (north end of the room) Samples will be kept until they fall apart or until we need to make space for new specimens.

APPS: In general, plant ID apps can be useful to help you study – be aware however that none of these are perfect and may result in you believing incorrect information. A damaged leaf can result in wildly inaccurate ID. I will set up our lab walks on an app called **Pocket Sights/STQORY**, which is free to download and will show you the route we take on the walk. This is a great way to review but does not substitute for being in class.

Additional Study Materials, Websites and resources posted on D2L:

These are mostly for your use; you will not be tested on these UNLESS I specify that posted materials are fair game for the exams; they will be clearly marked as such on D2L.

Taxonomic Technicalities: This course uses the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (itis.gov) as the ultimate authority for classification. In some cases, the genus or species approved by this authority has recently changed and may not yet be in common use in the trade. In these (few) cases, both names will be provided. Names presented in class materials take precedence over any other source.

Course Organization: ALL LAB QUIZZES ARE CUMULATIVE

Lectures will focus on the characteristics of plant families and the plant species we will see in lab the same week (as much as possible). You are expected to attend the full class session, take notes, and ask questions. Lecture materials will be posted as Power Point files before class. There will be information presented in class which is not in the Power Points but is fair game for exams.

Labs will include about 20 new plants each week. **We meet indoors for the first labs, week 1. A152 PSS.**

For the rest of the semester, we will meet in the head house (B-wing) and then go outside to see plants!

You must attend only the lab section you registered for unless you get prior approval. I am happy to have to attend the other lab section if you have a conflict with your own – missing lab will make this class much more difficult. In case of anticipated bad weather, all students may be invited to attend the other lab day.

Please be on time for class. We will not wait, but you can follow the lab plant list to catch up if you are late.

Please dress correctly for the weather. We will go out unless things are extreme, no whining! Labs are generally in the Horticultural Demonstration Gardens and Arboretum, but may end anywhere on campus, so be prepared (the posted lab walk will note location). *Try to travel light.*

Bring along a clipboard, and a pencil (pens do not write on wet paper). I will provide the weekly lab list, which will also be posted on D2L.

NO OTHER materials can be out during the lab walks – ie no notebooks, flash cards, previous lab walk handouts etc. **Headphones and earbuds are prohibited.**

Your two lowest of 10 lab quizzes will be dropped. If you have an unavoidable/legit absence and miss more than two lab quizzes, you can request a replacement assignment.

If you miss lab, even for an unavoidable/legitimate reason, we will not be able to repeat the walk for you. The Pocket Sights App can be used to follow the walk route.

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Grading and Evaluation: ALL quizzes are cumulative.

Lab Quizzes*	8 Quizzes x 50 points	300 points	(50%)	*lowest two grades dropped
Lecture Exams	3 exams x 100 points	300 points	(50%)	

Grading Scale:

Points	Percent	Grade
540+	90+	4.0
510-539	85-89%	3.5
480-509	80-84%	3.0
450-479	75-79%	2.5
420-449	70-74%	2.0
390-419	65-69%	1.5
360-389	60-64%	1.0

University Policies and Resources

Technical Assistance: If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report an issue

Visit the [Desire2Learn Help Site](https://help.d2l.msu.edu/) (<https://help.d2l.msu.edu/>)

Visit the MSU IT Help & Support Site (<https://tech.msu.edu/support/help/>), call (517) 432-6200 or toll free (844) 678-6200, or email ithelp@msu.edu

All college and university policies applicable to this course are available at
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/academics/courses/policies>