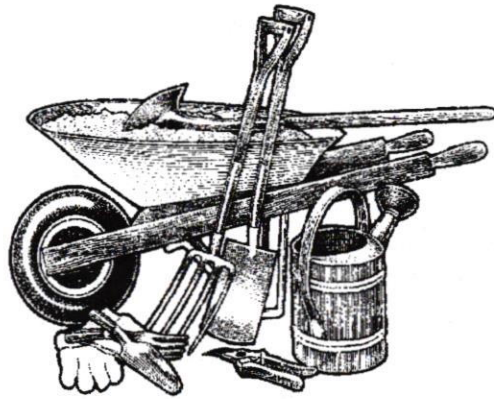


Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



**“Digging It”**  
**The Florida Horticulture Study Series**  
(Revised 2018)



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## Introduction

Welcome! And thank you for taking the time to enhance your knowledge and skills in horticulture. This project came about as a result of requests from people like you wanting an organized series of horticulture courses, an established horticulture curriculum and a hands-on, interactive opportunity for you to refresh what you already know, hone your gardening skills and maybe even learn something new. But, basically the overall purpose of this program of study is to have fun while learning!

For some students this 10-course series will be an opportunity to learn the basics. You will learn by doing in an informal setting with structured, hands-on workshops. As you become more and more confident in your abilities with these basic skills, it is hoped that you will be encouraged and inspired to enter your horticulture specimens in support of the various sponsored flower shows in your area.

This program can also serve as an introduction and peek your interest in attending NGC sponsored flower show schools and eventually becoming an accredited Flower Show Judge (in much the same way Floral Design Study leads to becoming a designer). But this course goes beyond what you would learn in Flower Show Schools. It goes beyond what you may have learned in the NGC Gardening Study Courses or the NGC Landscape Design Courses. It even augments what you may have learned in becoming a certified Master Gardener. This series of 10 courses will take you step-by-step through the plant world, beginning with botanical nomenclature. Each course focuses on a type of plant giving the specifics of its life cycle and myriad landscape uses. It will provide you with demonstration and practice at propagation. It will help you to select and site the proper plant for the proper place. You will learn how to not only grow the plant optimally but also to show it as an award-winning specimen. You will become acquainted with what it will take to maintain your plant and inform you of the competition you are sure to face from nature's insects, diseases and weather events. This course is designed to be the 'whole package'. And if you don't like the packaged plants we are to study, you can certainly substitute other plants more suited to your area of the state or your interests.

But maybe you don't want the 'whole package'. Maybe 10 courses is too much of a commitment for you. This program is also useful and designed such that any part of it can be developed as a single program for your garden club or organization. Or, maybe you want more, and 10 courses isn't enough for you. This program is also adaptable in the creation and continuation of horticulture study groups in your area. Like-minded 'horti-maniacs' can use the information contained here as a spring board to study specific plants more in depth and establish a cadre of premier horticulturists to serve as flower show classification team members or presenters or teachers. This program is what you make it!

We sincerely hope that you will find this program meets your needs. If not, please let us know and we will strive to revise the materials as necessary to satisfy the pragmatic gardener in all of us. Happy gardening,