



Gardening Study Schools

What

- ✓ One of the four major educational programs developed, offered and administered by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC), sponsored by clubs and districts of California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI)
- ✓ Began as a 1975-77 pilot program of the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan, subsequently endorsed and adopted by NGC as its third major educational program
- ✓ A Series of four ten-hour (two-day) courses covering basic botany, soils, plant propagation, houseplants, container gardening, plant diseases and pests, growing vegetables, development and evaluation of new plants, growing flowers, classifying plants, pruning techniques, growing fruits, growing woody ornamentals, lawns and lawn alternatives, home irrigation techniques and more
- ✓ Each course contains five required subjects and one supplemental (elective) subject
 - Recommended Reading
 - Botany for Gardeners*, Capon; *Living With Plants, A Guide to Practical Botany*, Schumann, Ehrle & Phippen; *Secrets to Great Soil*, Stell; *Sunset Western Garden Book*
 - Required Reading
 - The National Gardener*
- ✓ Periodic special refresher events for Consultants (these educational events are open to all). Recent refreshers: 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 & 2014 Tri-Refreshers – next Refresher (Ditch Your Lawn!) Will be October 29-30, 2015); 2006 & 2011 Bi-Refreshers

Why

- ✓ To help gardeners become accomplished horticulturists
- ✓ To stimulate interest in the growth of plant materials to their peak of perfection
- ✓ To develop respect for and appreciation of plants and their roles in our lives and activities
- ✓ Provide a foundation for the study of landscape design, the environment, and flower show judging
- ✓ Provide clubs and districts with a structure to offer gardening-related education to their members and to the public, thus providing opportunities to offer value to existing members and to recruit new members
- ✓ Many sponsoring clubs and districts make money putting on a school, so this can be a fundraiser
- ✓ Garden club members who complete all four courses (passing required exams) become NGC Gardening Consultants, a non-professional designation of special achievement, and may then volunteer to present programs & workshops and offer other services to their clubs and communities

Where

- ✓ Wherever you want!
- ✓ CGCI has completed twenty-four series of this school, beginning in 1979, all over California from Eureka and Redding to San Diego and Valley Center.
- ✓ Series 22, sponsored by Southern California Garden Club, concluded in Encino on March 29, 2013
- ✓ Series 23, sponsored by the Humboldt District of CGCI, concluded in Eureka on July 13, 2013
- ✓ Series 24, sponsored by Colfax Garden Club, concluded in Nevada City on October 27, 2013
- ✓ **You decide where Series 25 will be**

When

- ✓ Whenever you want! Historically, courses within a series were given at least four months apart – usually two courses/year – as of September, 2009 there are no time restrictions between courses
- ✓ **You decide when Series 25 will begin**

How

The following pertain to the sponsoring organization, not to the students (who just register and attend):

- ✓ Obtain *Gardening Study Schools Handbook, Revised 2005* from NGC Member Services
- ✓ Review curriculum, forms, checklists (from the *Handbook*) posted on the NGC website
- ✓ Obtain information from CGCI Gardening Study Schools (GSS) Chairman
- ✓ Determine feasibility and level of interest of club or district members to sponsor and conduct a Gardening Study School
- ✓ Appoint a local Gardening Study School chairman and committee
- ✓ Identify course location, select dates, identify instructors, coordinate with CGCI GSS Chairman
- ✓ Publicize and promote, gain knowledge, educate the public, make money, attract new members