

*Garden Clubs are GREAT places to learn*

California Garden Clubs, Inc.

For more information about these schools visit:  
[www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org](http://www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org)  
or contact the CGCI School Chairmen:

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[www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org](http://www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org)  
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*Grow With Us*

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**Back To School**

**Educational opportunities  
offered through  
California Garden Clubs, Inc.**

California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI) facilitates educational schools for National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) throughout California. As part of its objectives, CGCI and NGC offer educational opportunities for its members and the public which are inexpensive and fun for those who attend.

The four schools which NGC offers are:

- **Gardening Study Schools**
- **Landscape Design Study Programs**
- **Environmental Studies Schools**
- **Flower Show Schools**

The schools consist of four ten-hour courses (except for Flower Show School, which hours vary according to the course). Garden club members and the public are welcome to attend.

Garden club members who successfully complete all four courses of Gardening Study, Landscape Design Study and/or Environmental Studies become accredited consultants; however, members who successfully complete all four courses of Flower Show School have additional requirements to fulfill before becoming accredited flower show judges. For more information, contact the individual CGCI schools chairmen.

*Gardeners  
never stop  
learning!  
From  
childhood  
through  
retirement  
years,  
CGCI  
offers  
many  
opportunities  
to continue  
the learning  
process.*

### **Gardening Study Schools**

Gardening Study Schools focus on helping members and the public become accomplished horticulturists, to stimulate interest in the growth of plant materials, 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 much more.

The courses are designed to provide information on topics of interest to those especially interested in gardening, horticulture and related topics. Topics include 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. NGC is now offering Course 1 on line. For more information, see <http://gardenclub.org/Schools/OnlineGardenStudy.aspx>.

### **Landscape Design Study Program**

The course curriculum covers the history of landscape design as well as instruction from landscape architects and other experts in a variety of design techniques used in home and municipal settings. The objectives of the program are to develop a greater sense of appreciation, pride and knowledge about our private and public gardens; become better educated to make changes in our surroundings so that they will be more beautiful, useful, convenient, ecologically sound and easily maintained; stimulate interest in all phases of landscape design, including community planning, that will affect all of our lives; develop a contingent of qualified Landscape Design Consultants to serve in decision-making areas of public life (providing leadership, educational programs, scholarships, awards and promoting better landscape design).

Besides gaining greater enjoyment in their gardens through this knowledge, members have found the program inspirational, leading to the development of important civic and private projects.

### **Environmental Studies Schools**

The Environmental Studies Schools were initiated to further the awareness and understanding of the environment and to promote environmental literacy, through outreach programs for citizens of every age. Each course is divided into learning units designed to be interesting, informative and to outline positive actions we can all pursue to be good stewards of the Earth. Topics include backyard wildlife habitats, plant biodiversity, urban forestry, Earth stewardship, wetlands, agriculture, reduction of pollutants and toxic materials, Earthwise

living, wildlife, “the misunderstood” (bugs, worms, fungi, bats, reptiles, micro-organisms), etc. Also each course includes a nature discovery field trip.

### **Flower Show Schools**

Flower Show School is intended to train NGC members to become accredited flower show judges; however, it is not only for prospective flower show exhibitors and judges, but also for all garden club members and all persons interested in floral design and horticulture. It is a series of four intensive courses (approximately two days each in length) which covers the principles of floral design as well as fundamentals of flower show procedure.

The horticulture curriculum consists of basic general information on proper gardening techniques from seed/plant selection to plant culture and control of problems. Information is also presented on cultural needs of specific perennials, annuals, trees and shrubs, as well as fruits, vegetables and nuts and how to grow superior container plants. Design instruction covers traditional floral arrangements through creative styles and even designs incorporating lights and motors. Many attendees are particularly interested in table setting designs showing coordination of floral centerpiece, linens and dishes. Vignettes, small segments of rooms, also give ideas on interior decorating. Training is given in judging both design and horticulture. After successful completion of all four courses, fulfillment of exhibiting and judging requirements, flower show schedule writing and passing the handbook exam, a member may become an NGC accredited flower show judge.

### **General Information**

Any school can be sponsored by a state garden club, district or club/group of clubs. And Flower Show School can also be sponsored by a judges council.

Courses for Environmental Studies School, Gardening Study Schools and Landscape Design Study Program have no time restrictions and, with the approval of the school’s sponsor, may be scheduled back to back. A garden club member student may take all four courses in Environmental Studies, Gardening Study or Landscape Design Study within a year and become an NGC Accredited Consultant. However, most courses are scheduled at least four months apart — usually two courses per year.

Flower Show School courses are usually held six months apart; however, specific deadlines for Flower Show School students wishing to become accredited flower show judges can be found in the NGC *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Revised 2007.