

Common Course Outline
HORT 211
Plant Classification and Identification
2 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Plant Classification and Identification

Explores the techniques for identifying plants in the field using simple instruments such as the hand lens and dissecting microscope; emphasis will be placed on vascular plants, but other types will be discussed and studied in the classroom, laboratory, and field.

Prerequisite: (RDNG 051 or LVR 1), Hort 110 or consent of the instructor

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

- A. describe the units (taxa) used in plant classification (taxonomy): Division, Class, Order, Family, Genus and Species.
- B. distinguish cryptogamic plants from phanerogamic plants.
- C. distinguish gymnosperms from angiosperms.
- D. distinguish monocotyledons from dicotyledons.
- E. describe the floral envelope and other salient characteristics of the following common monocot families: Gamineae (Poaceae), Cyperaceae, Liliaceae, Orchidaceae, and Amaryllidaceae.
- F. describe the floral envelope and other salient characteristics of the following common dicot families: Rannunculaceae, Cruciferae (Brassicaceae), Leguminosae (Fabaceae), Labiatae (Lamiaceae), Umbelliferae (Apiaceae), Rosaceae, Scrophulariaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Solanaceae, Rubiaceae, Boraginaceae, Compositae (Asteraceae).
- G. understand the construction of keys for plant identification.
- H. use keys and floras (plant manuals) to identify plants at the family, genus and species levels in the laboratory and the field.
- I. describe various habitats and their representative plant species.
- J. describe various geographical zones and their representative plant species.
- K. collect, preserve and mount plant specimens.

Major Topics

- 1. Principles of Plant Classification
- 2. Recognize Plants in the Most Widely Represented Families
- 3. How to Collect and Preserve Plant Specimens of Various Types
- 4. How to Identify Plants at the Genus and Species Levels

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, but will include the following:

1. 2 Written Exams
2. Lab Practicum
3. Plant Collection
4. Attendance and Participation
5. 2 Saturday Field Trips

Date Revised: 09/28/00