

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: SUSAG 119 Title: SPECIALTY CROP PROD
Full Title: Specialty Crop Production
Last Reviewed: 2/14/2022

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	2.00	Lecture Scheduled	2.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	35.00
Minimum	2.00	Lab Scheduled	0	10	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	1.00		Contact DHR	17.50
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 70.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 122.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable
Grading: Grade or P/NP
Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP
Also Listed As:
Formerly: AG 251

Catalog Description:
Production of specialty horticulture crops including cultural practices, marketing and management decisions. Emphasis on Sonoma County fruit, vegetable and berry production for the gourmet market. Includes field trips and guest speakers.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:
Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100.

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: Production of specialty horticulture crops including cultural practices, marketing & management decisions. Emphasis on Sonoma County fruit, vegetable & berry production for the gourmet market. Field trips, and guest speakers. (Grade or P/NP)
Prerequisites/Corequisites:
Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100.
Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit:

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	Area	Effective:	Inactive:
CSU GE:	Transfer Area	Effective:	Inactive:
IGETC:	Transfer Area	Effective:	Inactive:
CSU Transfer:		Effective:	Inactive:
UC Transfer:		Effective:	Inactive:

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:

Not Certificate/Major Applicable

COURSE CONTENT

Outcomes and Objectives:

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

1. Develop a planting calendar for crop production.
2. Analyze a representative soil sample and assess texture, structure and components.
3. Recommend appropriate fertilization to create optimal garden soil conditions.
4. Properly prepare soil for planting.
5. Select appropriate seeds for intended crops.
6. Propagate plants by sexual and asexual means.
7. Discuss local marketing strategies for crops.
8. Apply appropriate weed and disease treatments.
9. Summarize the basic principles of irrigation and water management.
10. Apply appropriate amendments to ensure proper supply of nutrients to plants.
11. Summarize the basics of successful herb cultivation.
12. Discuss varieties of flowers well suited for cut-flower production.

Topics and Scope:

- I. Introduction to Organic Gardening and Sustainable Food Production
- II. Gardening Basics
 - A. Defining Organic
 - B. Climate
 - C. Planting Calendar
 - D. Planning
- III. Soil
 - A. Soil analysis
 1. Soil texture
 2. Soil structure

- 3. Soil organic matter
- 4. Using a soil survey map
- B. Soil fertility
 - 1. Essential plant nutrients
 - 2. Soil pH
 - 3. Fertilization of garden soils
- IV. Preparing the Soil
 - A. Cultivation
 - B. Tillage
- V. Seeds
 - A. Obtaining
 - B. Selecting
 - C. Storing
 - D. Sowing seeds for cool season crops
- VI. Plant Propagation
 - A. Sexual
 - B. Asexual
- VII. Marketing
 - A. Local marketing strategies
 - 1. Contract marketing
 - 2. Farm Trails
 - 3. Industry partnerships
 - B. Advertising
 - C. Other
- VIII. Water Management
 - A. Watering
 - B. Water Quality
 - C. Irrigation
- IX. Crops
 - A. Cool season vegetables
 - B. Warm season vegetables
 - B. Fruits and berries
 - C. Cover crops
 - D. Nutrient management
 - 1. Amendments
 - 2. Composting
 - 3. Green manures
- X. Pest Management
 - A. Insects
 - B. Vertebrate pests
 - C. Weeds
 - D. Diseases
- XI. Herb and Cut Flower Production
- XII. Organic Certification

Assignment:

Assignments may include:

- 1. Reading, 20 - 30 pages per week.
- 2. Notebook: maintain a notebook of lecture notes, weekly handouts, and notes on garden activities, field trips and speakers. Will be graded as mid-term progress report.

3. Written report (4 pages) on an actual or fictitious farm operation.
4. Oral presentation on written report.
5. Final exam.

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Notebook notes; report.

Writing
20 - 30%

Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None

Problem solving
0 - 0%

Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

Class performances, Field work

Skill Demonstrations
20 - 30%

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Multiple choice, True/false, Matching items, Completion, SHORT ANSWER

Exams
20 - 30%

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Attendance and participation.

Other Category
15 - 25%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

SPECIALTY AND MINOR CROPS. University of California Ag/NR publication 3346, 1998.

GOLDEN GATE GARDENING. Pam Pierce, Sasquatch Books, 1998.

CALIFORNIA MASTER GARDENER HANDBOOK. Dennis R. Pittenger (editor). University of California Ag/NR Publication 3382, 2002.

GARDENER'S TABLE. Richard Merrill and Joe Ortiz, Ten Speed Press, 2000.

SUSTAINABLE VEGETABLE PRODUCTION FROM START-UP TO MARKET. Vernon P. Grubinger, Natural Resource, Agriculture and Engineering Service (NRAES), 1999.