

## **LESSON 1 - ASSIGNMENT**

### **PLANT REVIEW WORKSHEETS**

With each assignment you will required to prepare plant reviews.  
Each plant should be named, described and illustrated.

#### **Naming the plant:**

Include the common name, scientific name; and the plant family name if possible.  
If you cannot provide one of these, write a note to the tutor explaining that you attempted to find the information and why you could not.  
Your tutor will often be able to help at least partly identify the odd unidentified plant; if you submit an illustration and good description (ideally presenting not only a leaf, but also a flower, fruit or seed head),

#### **Describing the Plant**

You should record any information that might be important to selecting and using this plant for a landscape design e.g.

Height: How high can it grow in your locality?

Width: How wide can it grow in your locality?

Flowers: What colour and when does it flower?

Leaf colour, shape, texture: What colour are the leaves when and mature? Are the leaves round, feathery, lobed, spiky? Are the leaves fine or coarse textured?

Scent: Are the flowers scented?

Animal Attraction: Does the plant attract birds, butterflies, bees? If so what part of the plant (flower or fruit)?

Hardiness: Is it frost tender? How does the wind affect it?

Culture: Are there any special things the plant requires? How hard should it be pruned and how often? Does it need good drainage? How often should it be fertilised? etc.

Pests and Diseases: List any pests and diseases that are particularly bad for this plant.

Maintenance: Are there any maintenance requirements for the plant such as pruning or raking fallen leaves in winter?

*Write approximately up to half a page for each plant.*

#### **Illustrating the Plant**

This may be done any of the following ways:

a/ Submit a photograph or drawing of parts of the plant

b/ Send a scan of a photograph or drawing (Do not send large graphics files over the internet. Consult your student manual for details)

c/ Refer to a web site page location where you have found the plant illustrated on the internet.

d/ Submit a photograph of a pressed specimen (Note: Do not send pressed specimens across state or national borders. To do so may be illegal and in breach of Quarantine regulations).

ACS has a website that contains a plant directory you can access this site on [www.acsgarden.com](http://www.acsgarden.com) there are many more sites that also have plant directories you might use.

**As part of each assignment you will be required to prepare two plant identification sheets  
(four plants per assignment).**

A TOTAL SIXTEEN SHEETS WILL BE SUBMITTED.

When you submit your first assignment, submit plant identification sheets at the same time.

The school's garden ezine is another valuable resource for both general, and topic specific horticultural information. We suggest you use it frequently. See [www.acsgarden.com](http://www.acsgarden.com)

## **A PRESSED PLANT COLLECTION CAN HELP**

You may decide to also collect and press specimens of plants.

While it is both difficult and may be illegal to send plants to us through the post (due to quarantine regulations); it can be a useful exercise for you to collect and label pressed specimens of plants.  
(Note: This is not a compulsory task)

It is a well recognised fact (by most horticultural professionals) that the more you handle plants, the more you are able to identify them.

Plant specimens consisting of a few leaves and perhaps a flower or fruit can be preserved for hundreds of years by a simple technique known as pressing. There are many ways of pressing a plant as outlined below (some being more permanent than others). All basically involved the same general procedure:

- a. The plant specimen is laid out flat on a sheet of absorbent material such as newspaper.
- b. A second sheet is placed on top of the plant.
- c. The plant sandwiched between these two sheets is then placed in a situation where pressure can be applied squeezing all the liquid from the plant tissue (e.g. placed between or in heavy books such as phone books, or placed in a plant press).
- d. Changing the paper frequently will speed up the drying process, and help reduce the likelihood of your specimens going mouldy.
- e. After a period of time anything from a week to several months, the plant can be removed and attached to a sheet of paper or card (i.e. mounted).
- f. The mounted specimen should be stored in a dry situation if it is to be preserved for any length of time.

If you have problems pressing your plants, or would like further information contact the school and ask us to send out a copy of the booklet 'Pressing Plants'.

## EXAMPLE OF A PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHEET

Plant No. 1.

Plant Family.....	Sketch Or Photo
Genus .....	
Species.....	
Common Name.....	
How & Where to Plant it.....	
Height..... Spacing.....	
Hardiness .....	
Appearance .....	
Uses .....	
Culture .....	
Pest & Disease .....	

Plant No. 2.

Plant Family.....	Sketch Or Photo
Species.....	
Genus.....	
Common Name.....	
How & Where to Plant it.....	
Height..... Spacing.....	
Hardiness .....	
Appearance .....	
Uses .....	
Culture .....	
Pest & Disease .....	

**NOTE: This is a sample only! Change it as needed to suit your situation**

## **ASSIGNMENT**

*By answering the questions below you will be reviewing and applying things you have learnt and in doing so, you will be revising your studies.*

*Even if no one ever sees your assignment, the process of answering these questions is a valuable and important part of developing your knowledge and skills as an expert home gardener.*

1. Write down the scientific names of three different plants.

For each of these plants, indicate which part of the name is the genus, which part is the species and which part (if any) is the variety name?

2. Give the name of a shrub which is commonly grown in gardens around your locality.

Explain step by step how you would go about planting a specimen of this plant in your own locality.

3. If you were intending moving house and wanted to take some of your established garden plants with you; how would you transplant and transport a small tree (4 metres tall) and a large shrub (1.5 metres diameter)? What techniques could be used to give them the best chance of survival?

(Write no more than half a page)

4. Some friends of yours have just moved into a newly constructed house. They want to buy some garden tools and ask you what the most important tools would be for them to start with. They have about one week's wages to spend.

Write them out a shopping list for their new garden tool shed.

List the tools. Indicate why each of these is so useful.

Indicate how much (roughly) each would be likely to cost.

5. Compare the differences of pruning in 5 different plant species of your choice.

List five different genera which commonly would be grown and pruned in your locality.

Describe in one sentence (for each), how each one would be pruned.

Next explain why they are pruned this way.

6. PREPARE AND SUBMIT YOUR FIRST TWO PLANT WORKSHEETS  
WITH OUTLINES ON FOUR PLANTS



Hippeastrum Bulb

## **SELF GUIDED STUDY STUDENTS**

If you are studying this course as part of a self-guided program (i.e. if you have bought the course and are not enrolled as a student), you will not be submitting your assignments for marking.  
You should still complete the assignments, as those exercises are an integral part of your learning.

## **FULLY ENROLLED AND REGISTERED STUDENTS**

Self Guided Study Students (working from a CD) have the option to fill in a form, pay an additional fee and upgrade to be registered as a student and receive full tutor support including the option of submitting assignments and having them marked by an expert and qualified tutor. Details of how to do this are found on the CD.

If you upgrade to a full fee-paying student, submit each assignment as soon as it has been completed. Refer to your student manual supplied upon upgrading for details on how to submit your assignments.