Ferns for your garden

Growing ferns successfully will be demystified. Find out about ferns which are suited to Adelaide’s climate, discover how to look after your ferns and satisfy the challenge of growing your own treasures. Learn from the Botanic Gardens of South Australia’s expert and former Curator of Ferns in this informative practical Masterclass.

Mount Lofty Botanic Garden’s Fern Gully is the most comprehensive in-ground fern collection in the world. This course is ideal for fern enthusiasts, horticulture students and keen gardeners who would like to expand their knowledge in growing this fascinating group of ancient plants.

During this Masterclass, a field study will cover the practicalities of fern cultivation and include ferns that grow naturally in the Adelaide region, as well as others from around Australia and overseas that are suitable. The course facilitator will share her knowledge and experience, leading to a deeper understanding of fern physiology and also cover an overview of vegetative propagation techniques.

Course name: Ferns for your garden
2016 Dates: Monday 26 September
Time: 10.00am - 12.30pm
Location: Mount Lofty Botanic Garden
(meet at Lower Car Park off Lampert Road, see map on reverse)
Presenter: Dr Nicky Fidler, Botanic Gardens of South Australia
Cost: $85 per person inc GST (small booking fee applies if purchased online)

More information and bookings at: botanicgardens.sa.gov.au
Course description

This Masterclass will cover:
• Field collection tour and field study in Mount Lofty’s internationally-renowned fern collection
• Different fern types, including species native to the Adelaide region
• Species selection
• Site selection
• Site preparation
• Fern cultivation, including
  • Planting
  • Irrigation
  • Fertilising
  • Pest control

Special requirements

No previous propagation experience or horticultural qualifications required. Gardening experience advantageous. Participants must bring their own sharpened secateurs, gloves, protective clothing including sensible shoes and a hat, notebooks and pens. Plant material cannot be brought to the Mount Lofty Botanic Garden Nursery. Non-accredited plant material may harbour soil and plant pathogens which could contaminate the nursery.

Program

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.45am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Field study in fern gully</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30am</td>
<td>Morning tea</td>
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<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Masterclass concludes</td>
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Presenter

Dr Nicky Fidler

Dr Nicky Fidler has a Diploma in Horticulture, BSc (Hons) PhD and a Cert IV in Training and Assessment. Nicky is a qualified trainer, an experienced horticulturalist specialising in plant science and pathology and ferns. She has spent several years working in the Kimberleys and Central Australia as a field ethno-botanist, then as researcher and lecturer in plant science at the University of Queensland. Her research work contributed to the development of elite varieties of sugar cane resistant to the bacterial disease Leaf Scald. Returning to Adelaide she became curator of the Fern Collection at Mount Lofty Botanic Garden, a position she has held for 13 years. She is the editor of the Fern Society of South Australia’s monthly journal and a contributor to the British Fern Society’s journal.

Payment

The cost of this course is $85 (inc GST). Payment can be made by:
• Cash, credit card or EFTPOS by calling 08 8222 9311.
• Follow the links online at botanicgardens.sa.gov.au (please note, an online booking fee applies)