



## **AGRI 1315 025 DC – Horticulture**

Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

*“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”*

**Instructor:** Bernard Binns

**Office:** Ag 112

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| Weekday   | Office Hours    |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Monday    | 7:30AM – 8:AM   |
| Tuesday   | None            |
| Wednesday | None            |
| Thursday  | 1:30PM – 2:30PM |
| Friday    | None            |

**This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.**

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

### **Course Description:**

Structure, growth, and development of horticultural plants. Examination of environmental effects, basic principles of reproduction, production methods ranging from outdoor to controlled climates, nutrition, and pest management. (Cross-listed as HORT 1301). The introduction of fundamental horticulture and biological concepts relevant to plant physiology, life cycle, growth and development. Agriculture majors are required to take Horticulture Lab AGRI 1115 as a co-requisite. Three hours of lecture each week.

Prerequisite(s): None

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Identify the various horticultural industries and their roles in our society.
2. Describe the fundamentals of plant science
3. Assess the interactions of soil, water, and fertility in plant science.
4. Contrast the methods of plant reproduction and propagation.
5. Explain the impacts of production methods and technologies on plant science.
6. Contrast methods of pest management in plant science.
7. Investigate methods of environmental manipulation (e.g. greenhouse controls, frost management methods, and low hoop house structures).

### **Evaluation/Grading Policy:**

*The breakdown of the course requirements is as follows:*

| %   | Requirement        |
|-----|--------------------|
| 60% | Exams (3)          |
| 15% | Group Project      |
| 10% | Writing Assignment |
| 15% | iCEV Quizzes       |

*Semester grades will be earned as follows*

| Percentage      | Letter Grade |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 90% and above   | A            |
| 80 %–89%        | B            |
| 70 %–79%        | C            |
| 60%–69 %        | D            |
| 59.9% and below | F            |

### **Required Instructional Materials:**

None, you have purchased as a part of course fees your access code as it is embedded in this course. You may notice that you access ICEV through blackboard links and they will be active when you open your course in blackboard.

### **Optional Instructional Materials:**

Practical Horticulture, 7/E Laura Williams Rice  
 Robert P. Rice, Jr., California Polytechnic State University  
 Publisher: Prentice Hall  
 ISBN Number: 0135038669

### **Minimum Technology Requirements:**

Computer with Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint and a search engine of any kind.

### **Required Computer Literacy Skills:**

Basic understanding of Microsoft Office Suite

### **Course Structure and Overview:**

All assignments are time sensitive, and you will have to turn them in by the due date. Late work will be accepted on a case-by-case basis and will receive a 10-point deduction each week. All group projects will receive a grade from instructor as well as each of their team members. Mid-term grades will be calculated and provided in the blackboard gradebook. Grades on all turned in work will be returned to you by next scheduled class period.

### **TESTS/EXAMS:**

There will be 3 exams accounting for 60% of your overall grade. Exams will be multiple-choice, matching, short

answer, true/false and essays developed from the iCEV online materials, classroom lecture and group projects. You will not be allowed to retake a test. Review for the exam will be given the class day prior to the exam. I strongly urge you not to miss the review.

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

#### **Group Presentations Protocol:**

Students will be required to develop 1 oral group presentations with visual aids (ex: poster board or power point) that will account for 15% of their final grade. The instructor will assign groups and provide each group with a problem or question in plant science. Each group will form a hypothesis of the question and test the hypothesis by doing an experiment(s) and then report the results in class for discussion. Your grade will be assessed on the group and individual effort within the group on the presentation of their hypothesis, experiment, and results.

### **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT PROTOCOL:**

One written report during the semester will account for 10% of the final grade. The written assignment will be researched and scientific methods applied to controversial horticulture topics assigned by instructor. Technical papers must be hand-written as a rough draft, typed, 3-5 pages in length with at least 3 citations supporting your position with credible scientific facts. Writing assignments can be first checked by QEP writing tutors prior to submitting for grade. QEP writing tutors are available to all NTCC students free of charge and have posted hours and locations.

Other related courses: AGRI 1115 is the lab section of this AGRI 1315 lecture course. Agriculture students are required to take this course in their degree plan for their Ag concentration. However, its activities and grades will be independent of the lecture course. All students, including various degree plan options and agriculture students may take ONLY this lecture course to satisfy 3 credit hours of their life science core required courses.

### **Communications:**

Primary form of communication will be through e-mail or in person office visits during my office hours. I will try to return all e-mails within 24 hours. I will not return e-mails on Sunday.

### **Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements:**

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

### **Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:**

Employees and students shall be permitted to explore artificial intelligence (AI) and implement its use in and out of the classroom in accordance with policy and administrative regulations. The use of AI shall only be as a support tool to enhance student outcomes or as necessary to engage in research and shall never take the place of faculty, staff, and student decision-making. Any use of AI must comply with law, policy, and administrative regulations relating to student and employee privacy and data security. A student shall only use AI tools with faculty permission and shall be expected to produce original work and properly credit sources, including AI tools used in creating the work.

Example:

APA (7th edition)

OpenAI. (2026). ChatGPT (March 25 version) [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com/>

MLA (9th edition)

OpenAI. ChatGPT. 25 Mar. 2026, <https://chat.openai.com/>.

Employees or students who use AI tools to deceptively harm, bully, or harass others shall be disciplined in accordance with policy. [See DH, DIA series, FFD series, FFE, FLB, and the FM series] AI Use by Employees and Students. Northeast Texas Community College 225500 TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES CRB ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (LOCAL) DATE ISSUED: 12/8/2025 1 of 1 UPDATE 50 CRB(LOCAL)-AJC Adopted: 12/16/2025

### **NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:**

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

### **ADA Statement:**

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodation. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

### **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

### **Tentative Course Schedule:**

Course schedule will be given in class and is subject to change.