



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Native Plant Trust Launches Additional Online Courses, Building on Extensive Catalog of Educational Resources to Meet Demand for Remote Learning

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(Framingham, MA) Native Plant Trust, the nation's first plant conservation organization and the only one solely focused on New England's native plants, announces the launch of three new online courses in plant science. The first, Plant Families, begins immediately; the other two, Plant Ecology and Plant Form & Function, are open for registration now and will begin this summer. Registrations for all three are accepted on a rolling basis.

"With people at home due to the COVID-19 crisis, demand for online learning has never been higher, and with it the desire to learn more about the native plants right in our neighborhoods and in communities throughout New England. Native Plant Trust quickly transitioned existing in-person programs to online delivery, while continuing to develop more robust courses specifically for distance learning," explains Courtney Allen, Director of Public Programs. "The three new online courses offer lifelong learners an opportunity to fully engage with Native Plant Trust's world-class expertise in botany and horticulture, at their own pace, from anywhere in New England and around the world."

The new courses adapt for online learning the content from three foundational programs in Native Plant Trust's renowned Certificate in Native Plant Studies and also offer the same educational credits. Each online course takes about twelve hours to complete and can be taken at the individual's desired pace. The courses offer several units of core material, accompanied by field and laboratory assignments, online journal space, forums for student dialogue, and quizzes. The student work is facilitated and reviewed by experienced plant science instructors, who are also available to answer questions. The three new online courses took a year-and-a-half to produce, from digital platform analysis to content creation to design. They join Native Plant Trust's extensive in-person and online offerings of 200 programs per year.

For more information and to register, please visit www.NativePlantTrust.org.

ABOUT NATIVE PLANT TRUST

Native Plant Trust is the nation's first plant conservation organization and the only one solely focused on New England's native plants. We save native plants in the wild, grow them for gardens and restorations, and educate others on their value and use. We are based at Garden in the Woods, a renowned native plant botanic garden that attracts visitors from all over the world. From this flagship property in Framingham, Massachusetts, 25 staff and many of our 1,500 trained volunteers work throughout New England each year to monitor and protect rare and endangered plants, collect and preserve seeds to ensure biological diversity,

detect and control invasive species, conduct research, and offer a range of educational programs. Native Plant Trust also operates a nursery at Nasami Farm in western Massachusetts and manages six sanctuaries in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont that are open to the public. Native Plant Trust is among the first organizations worldwide to receive Advanced Conservation Practitioner accreditation by London-based Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), which included an endorsement by an International Advisory Council representing six continents. Please visit www.NativePlantTrust.org.

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