

The art of horticulture



Recently, the Philadelphia Inquirer published an article titled “Is horticulture a withering profession?” Paul B. Redman, director of Longwood Gardens, a premier display garden, stated that horticulture is competing against a lot of other careers.

Pierre S. DuPont initially started Longwood Gardens as both a display and educational garden. This is the same DuPont who made the DuPont company the success it is today as a business. As a chemist, an engineer, innovator and a lover of great landscapes and flowers, DuPont saw the wisdom in implementing a public garden not just for display and collections but also research for plant breeding, propagation and conservation, as well as education.

The Professional Gardener Program, which is now an accredited two-year program, started as a way of training young students to be professionals in the green industry. This program encompasses landscape design and installation, plant biology, botany and nomenclature and other plant science, soil science, entomology, vegetable gardening, specialty crops, greenhouse production, arboriculture, natural lands management, turf management and more.

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