

The Evolution and Origins of Plants

A 12 week online course
with Dr Mark Spencer

Weds afternoons from
9th Sept to 25th Nov

THE
GARDENS
TRUST 

booking @ <https://plantevolution.eventbrite.co.uk>



We are delighted to be working again with Dr Mark Spencer. Mark is an experienced and internationally respected botanist. Formerly at the Natural History Museum he is now the Hon. Botany Curator at the Linnean Society of London. His expertise covers many disciplines including forensic botany and the history of botanical science. He also works globally as a seasoned writer, public speaker and television presenter.

This is a new 12 week course on the evolution and origins of plants, with a slant towards the questions 'where did the plants in my garden come from?' and 'why do they look this way?'

PROVISIONAL COURSE PROGRAMME

9th Sept: Deep time, from the 'primordial swamp' to towering forests - the spore-bearing plants that once ruled the world.

16th Sept: Time to cover up, how conifers came to clothe the world in green and the origins of seeds.

23rd Sept: Darwin's 'abominable mystery', how did flowering plants evolve, is now less mysterious, just!

30th Sept: Once upon a time, we thought there were just 'dicots' and 'monocots' - the early evolving flowering plants that grace our gardens and enliven our palates.

7th Oct: How 'water-friends' and seagrasses enrich our world and other 'monocots' feed the world, put rooves over our heads, motivate the arts and make ice-cream so much nicer.

14th Oct: Apples and pears, peas and beans and much more besides, especially catkins.

21st Oct: The lovely mallows and geraniums and their allies.

28th Oct: Bindweed and figworts, a massively confusing ensemble with a proclivity towards parasitism.

4th Nov: Put your heads together, the 'crafty' and hyper-diverse world of daisies, carrots and valerians.

11th Nov: Some like it hot - the fleshy, thorny world of the succulent.

18th Nov: Parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme - plants of Mediterranean climates.

25th Nov: Going underground, bulbs, corms and tubers.

**The course costs £60 for all 12 sessions inc eventbrite fees
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