



# Basic Botany for Wetland Assessment – Syllabus



**Duration: 4 weeks**

**Credit Hours: 12**

## General Information

The Swamp School's Basic Botany for Wetland Assessment (BBWA) course is designed for students who are new to plant identification. This course is presented in a weekly format and runs for four weeks. You will need a copy of *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide* to complete this course.

## Course Description

This course covers basic plant identification skills including field guide selection, how to use both dichotomous and polyclave keys, tips and tricks to quickly narrow down a species, and what to do when you cannot identify a plant. This course also includes common botanical terms, and a review of plant parts.

Since this course is primarily designed for students who are new to wetland plant identification, it is highly recommended that you also consider our more advanced Certified Wetland Botanist program.

This course gives students the knowledge and skills needed to properly use plant field guides and inevitably, field identification of wetland vegetation. This course is also an overview of botanical techniques.

## Course Requirements

Students are expected to present original work in all their submissions to the Swamp School. Students will complete weekly assignments, respond to a discussion prompt and comment on another student's response. Due dates set up in the assignments and work must be submitted on or before these dates. ALL information for course assignments including photo's, and drawings, etc., must be current and completed within the time frame of the published course start and end dates unless a specific exception to this policy is given by the staff of the Swamp School.

Weekly class assignments may include preparation of an essay, pictures, and/or other course-related material. Students will also complete quizzes and a final exam.

**Instructor Contact** - Directly within the course via Moodle email.

## Time Limits

Weekly assignments are to be turned in within the timeframe indicated for each assignment, normally ten days from the start of the lesson. Daily assignments in weeklong courses are due the next day. You must complete all class requirements by the official end date of the course. If you are unable to complete the class within that time frame you **MUST** notify the Swamp School in writing. Late work may be turned in after due dates but may be penalized. If you have not completed the course by the official end date, additional time extensions can be requested but may be subject to an additional fee. If you wish, you may transfer into the next scheduled session of the course, however, some or all of your previous coursework may not carry over to the new session and you may also be subject to a re-enrollment fee. The Swamp School reserves the right to modify this policy on a case-by-case basis.

**NOTE:** In the event that the student falls more than two weeks behind during the class term, the student's course access will be suspended without notice until the student contacts the Swamp School to discuss continuation in the class or transfer to another session. It is up to the student to contact the Swamp School to discuss re-enrollment options.

## Plagiarism and Writing Standards

The Swamp School's expectation is that all student work will be original. A detailed description of our policy on proper submission of an assignment is outlined in our Plagiarism Statement and Writing Standards.

**Grading\***

Weekly assignments – 40%

Class discussions and responses – 20%

Quizzes – 10%

Final exam – 30%

\*A minimum overall grade of 80% is required to pass this course.

**Course Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	Classification Keys, USACOE Codes
<b>Week 2</b>	Plant Identification; Plant Parts; Introduction to Newcomb's Field Guide; Plant Parts Quiz
<b>Week 3</b>	Field Guides; Roots; Stems; Surfaces
<b>Week 4</b>	Leaves and Inflorescence; Final Exam

**Certification**

Students that successfully complete the assignments and pass the final exam will be awarded a certificate of training for their records.