For more information, contact:
Department of Plant Sciences
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Or view these Web addresses:
Public Horticulture:
http://plantsciences.utk.edu/publichort/
Career Examples:
http://plantsciences.utk.edu/jobs/
Department of Plant Sciences:
http://plantsciences.utk.edu/
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources:
http://casnr.tennessee.edu/
Undergraduate Admissions:
http://admissions.utk.edu/undergraduate/
Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships:
http://web.utk.edu/~finaid/

Financial Aid
In addition to the Tennessee Hope Scholarship, a variety of financial aid is available. About one-third of the students in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources receive scholarships directly from the college, averaging about $2200 per student annually. Students are also eligible for a variety of university scholarships, as well as scholarships offered by horticultural organizations.

What is Public Horticulture?

Suppose you enjoy working with plants, and equally enjoy working with people and inspiring their use and enjoyment of plants. Do you also like photography, writing, public speaking and teaching others? If so, Public Horticulture would be a good career fit for you. Public Horticulture is the social or people aspect of horticulture, which is the science and art of cultivating ornamental plants, fruits, vegetables and creating gardens.

Gardening continues to be one of the top leisure activities among Americans, and as a result, there is an incredible demand for horticultural information and education. There have never been as many print media, television and radio gardening programs, or public gardens as there are today. In fact, each year botanical gardens and zoos enjoy more visitors than the combined annual attendance at sporting events in this country (Public Garden Journal, Vol 21, 2006). Public horticulturists are the people who write gardening books and magazine articles, host gardening radio or television shows, and coordinate educational programs at botanical gardens or Master Gardener programs through the Extension Service. Public horticulturists also manage public gardens, parks and greenways, and they ensure that our nation is conserving plants through managed plant collections and plant exploration research all over the world.
The Public Horticulture program prepares students for careers in several exciting areas. These often involve the study, display and preservation of living plant collections for public benefit, such as botanical gardens, conservatories and arboreta. Good job opportunities also exist in fields that use plants to enhance human well-being through education and therapy. Because UT is recognized nationally as having the premier academic program in public horticulture, our students are exceptionally well-prepared for the job market. It’s tough to imagine a more beautiful and fulfilling environment in which to work!

Job titles of recent graduates:
• Director or assistant director of botanical garden, arboretum or butterfly conservatory
• Interpretive horticulturist; education director
• City, zoo, campus or cemetery horticulturist
• Teacher, instructor, professor, educator
• Extension agent or specialist; community garden organizer
• Urban forester; curator for historical homes and grounds
• Estate gardener; collections horticulturist
• Garden writer, editor, publication manager, Internet specialist
• Manager of children’s gardens
• Horticultural therapist at hospital, therapy center or nursing home
• City, park or theme park horticulturist

A variety of student activities is available on campus, ranging from intramural sports to student branches of professional horticulture societies. Each year, both our departmental Hort Club and our student branch of the national Horticulture Honor Society (Pi Alpha Xi) are involved in community gardening and campus beautification projects, field trips, professional conferences and competitions. Many of our Public Horticulture undergraduate students play integral roles in the UT Gardens, in everything from designing and planting garden beds to leading guided garden tours to writing interpretive garden literature.