



THE SUSTAINABLE GARDEN

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF URBAN HORTICULTURE AND DESIGN



The Sustainable Garden instigates a whole systems approach and promotes working, productive, ornamental landscapes by developing a new aesthetic ideal blending together ornamental and edible plantings. The former nursery site features unchecked invasive plantings and highly disturbed and compacted soils, suitable for testing sustainable landscape development strategies.

The garden's major components will demonstrate sustainable landscape design and horticultural principles that promote environmental stewardship through the development of a landscape that demonstrates:

- ◆ *Resource Conservation* – minimal outside inputs of water, topsoil, fertilizers, and toxic pest control methods. The materials selected for use in the garden will be obtained within a 350 mile distance of Farmingdale.
- ◆ *Recycling Principles* – water retention techniques utilizing the collection and dispersal of rainwater; soil building techniques utilizing compost and compost tea, living mulches/cover crops.
- ◆ *Plant selection* – plant selections that demonstrate the 'right plant for the right place:' matching plants suitable to the specific habitat, rather than modifying a site for the plants.
- ◆ *Product Development* – The garden will feature ornamental plants that can produce food (bamboo, fruits, herbs) or products (bamboo for structural uses, other plant for dyes, fiber and biomass).
- ◆ *Outdoor Classroom facility* – an intentionally designed outdoor area for lectures and classes utilizing appropriate "green" principles. Materials being considered include: recycled materials (wood, stone, concrete and metal); locally harvested products (native lumber, straw bale building construction); resource-conserving technologies (green roof, solar, rainwater cisterns, composting toilets).



The development of a sustainable garden within Farmingdale State College's renowned 4-acre Teaching Gardens offers the Department of Urban Horticulture and Design an opportunity to foster greater awareness and understanding of a truly green movement among its students, who will serve as future industry leaders. This new outdoor classroom, begun in 2011, continues the department's long tradition of utilizing practical, hands-on experience to complement and enhance traditional academic programming.

Sustainability: land practices that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

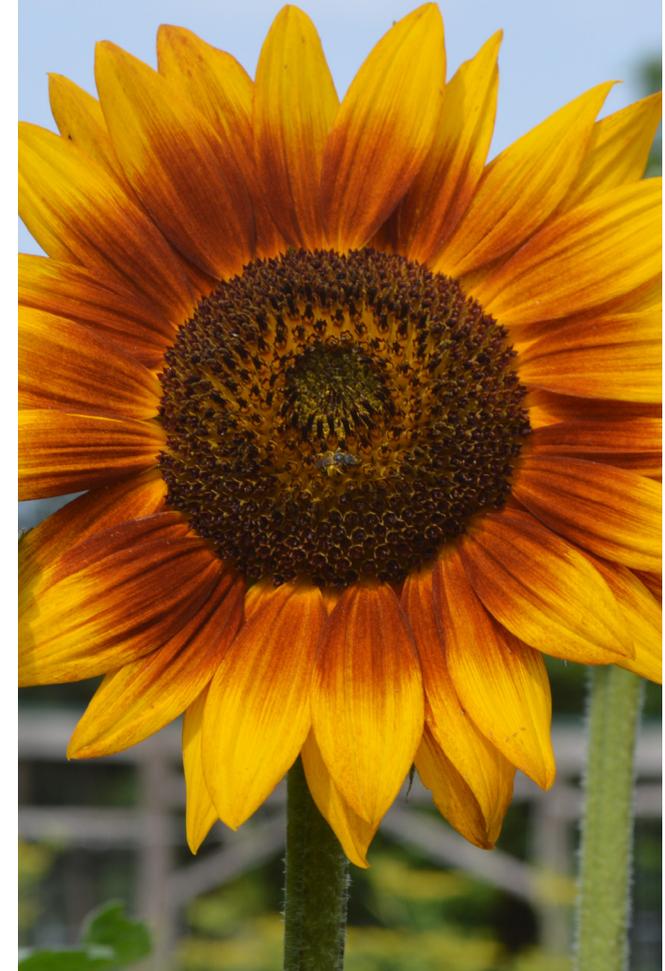
Generations of talented students and dedicated faculty have developed and maintained the Teaching Gardens since the 1930s as a model for successful landscape design and horticultural practices. The gardens are separated into a series of theme areas, or "garden rooms," which feature a diversity of design styles and planting schemes in a relatively small area. Creation of the Sustainable Garden, formerly the department's nursery, will ensure that students have access to progressive ideas and strategies that will influence Long Island's large horticulture and landscape design sector to ensure that industry practices respect the environment of this

heavily populated area. It can also influence how the average citizen utilizes dwindling resources in a finite world and promote sound environmental stewardship within the region.

In 2013 SUNY designated this garden as one of "Six Big Ideas, With Unlimited Potential," highlighting the garden as an example of the Power of SUNY.

The philosophy that guides The Sustainable Garden is conveyed in the following passage adapted from "The Sustainable Sites Initiative: Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks (2008)," an interdisciplinary initiative by the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, the University of Texas at Austin, and the United States Botanic Garden:

"The Initiative envisions that sustainable land practices will enable natural and built systems to work together to protect and enhance the ability of landscapes to provide services such as climate regulation, clean air and water, and improved quality of life. For purposes of the Initiative, sustainability is defined as land practices 'that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'"



For more information about the program please visit www.farmingdale.edu/horticulture

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