

Karl Gercens, East Conservatory Manager

About the Speaker

Karl Gercens' passion for horticulture started at an early age while growing up on a 10,000-acre cotton plantation in Mississippi. The warm Mississippi climate and long growing season allowed him to experiment with different plant types and growing methods, which lead him to obtain his Bachelor of Science Degree in Ornamental Horticulture at Mississippi State University.

Today, Karl is a Section Gardener at Longwood Gardens, responsible for many of the changing displays in the grand 4-acre Conservatory. For 10 years, Karl has influenced the design, installation and maintenance of some of the finest horticulture displays under glass. Prior to joining Longwood, he completed academic internships at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida and the Filoli Estate in the San Francisco Bay area of California.

Karl's signature strength of using pallets of colored foliage trees, shrubs and perennials is also the focus of his professional lectures that he gives nationwide and his horticulture classes as part of Longwood Gardens' Continuing Education Program. Karl's horticulture passion extends worldwide with frequent visits to public gardens in all 50 states and more than 24 countries.

Signature Presentation

Plants that Pop

Learn about the plants that can enhance any garden with bold colors. By adding burgundy, gold, silver, and variegated plants to even the smallest garden, you can have season-long interest year after year. Explore the diversity of ornamental trees, shrubs, and flowers available in a variety of colors and textures.

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Recent Presentations/ Appearances

Container Gardening
-Philadelphia Flower Show

Desert Plants
-San Francisco Flower Show

Longwood Gardens:
A World of Pleasure
-Rhode Island Flower Show

Great Garden Design for Small Spaces
-Northwest Flower Show

Desperate Landscapes
-Horticulture Society of Maryland

Recent Presentation Topics

Christmas Design Inspiration
Container Gardening
Desert Plants



“I see a garden as a reflection of the person who works in it...my favorite gardens are passionate, bold and exciting!”

Testimonials

“This was the best class I have taken part in. Karl was a super teacher. He explained what he was doing and why and encouraged us in our designs. The flowers were exceptional and numerous and what a variety! Just amazing. Please keep up the interesting classes. This is my golf!”

“Karl did a great job with flower and container distribution... He is a fabulous communicator. The plant material was top notch. His expertise with these tropical flowers was top notch and his sharing of that expertise was generous and fun.”

“I am very glad I attended the class last night. Karl is very enthusiastic, energized, has a good sense of humor, oh, and is very knowledgeable. He did a good job of explaining the different plants you could use in various conditions for OUR area. And it was good to hear that sometimes even he makes mistakes...”

In the News

Chicago Tribune
The Philadelphia Inquirer
The August Chronicle
GardenSMART TV

Social Media (Videos, Blogs, etc.)

Blog posts: <http://longwoodgardens.wordpress.com/author/kgercens/>

Fast Forward to Christmas: <http://longwoodgardens.wordpress.com/page/2/>

Philadelphia Flower Show: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QURkOa_1DF8

