



Certified Arborist Prep Course

June 2-4, 2025

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Wilson County Extension Center

1806 Goldsboro St S SW, Wilson, NC 27893

Workshop Overview

Participants of this two-day workshop will receive professional instruction that improves their technical competency as an arborist in the tree care industry. As sponsors of this preparatory course, the NC Urban Forest Council, NC Cooperative Extension, NC Forest Service, and Southern Chapter of ISA seek to accomplish the following objectives:

Create incentives for nascent arborists to continue their professional development.

Provide the public with a means to identify tree care professionals who have demonstrated trusted competency in tree care practices, through a professionally developed education program and exam.

Educators

Dr. Barbara Fair

Dr. Barbara Fair is an Associate Professor in the Department of Horticultural Science and the Landscape Specialist for North Carolina. In addition to teaching, she provides expertise to extension faculty and the green industry, focusing extensively on issues of landscape sustainability and arboriculture. She is also a certified arborist with an extensive arboriculture and urban forestry background.

Barbara earned her Bachelor's and Master's from Penn State University and obtained her PhD from Ohio State University.

Mark Livingston

Mark Livingston is a Senior Consulting Arborist with Arborguard in Charlotte, BCMA, TRAQ, and CTSP. Mark has over 20 years of arboriculture experience. He is currently the Past Chair of NC Urban Forest Council. He has his B.S. in Forestry Resource Management from Clemson University.

Dr. Kelly Oten

Dr. Kelly Oten is an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist of Forest Health at NC State University. Kelly has degrees entomology from Texas A&M (B.S.), University of Tennessee (M.S.), and NC State University (Ph.D.). Following graduation, Kelly worked 8 years with the NC Forest Service as Forest Health Monitoring Coordinator and joined NC State Faculty in 2020, where she leads a forest health research and Extension Program. Her program focuses primarily on invasive forest insects, such as the emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle, and elm zigzag sawfly.

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Workshop Agenda

Monday, June 2

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 – 9:05 a.m. Welcome, NCUFC

9:05 – 10:20 a.m. Installation and Establishment, *Dr. Barbara Fair*

10:20 - 10:50 a.m. Break

10:50 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. Tree Identification and Selection, *Dr. Barbara Fair*

12:05 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Tree Biology, *Dr. Barbara Fair*

2:30 - 3:00 p.m. Break

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Soil and Water Relations, *Dr. Barbara Fair*

4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Tree Nutrients and Fertilizer, *Dr. Barbara Fair*

Tuesday, June 3

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Registration

8:30 – 9:45 a.m. Tree Risk Assessment, *Mark Livingston*

9:45 - 10:15 a.m. Break

10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Tree Safety, *Mark Livingston*

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Insects and Diseases, *Dr. Kelly Oten*

12:15 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Pruning, *Mark Livingston*

2:30 - 3:00 p.m. Break

3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Tree Support and Lightning Protection, *Mark Livingston*

Wednesday, June 4 - Exam (Optional)

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Exam

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