

The Green Scene

Longleaf Pine Giveaway

In November, the Garden partnered with the Virginia Department of Forestry to offer 2,000 Virginia stock longleaf pine tree seedlings to all our guests. This was a call to action to encourage everyone to think global and act local. We kicked off the giveaway with the folks from the Virginia Longleaf Pine Cooperators Group, a multi-organizational group dedicated to the conservation of longleaf pine. Planting a tree is one of the easiest ways to have a positive impact on the environment and offset deforestation. Why longleaf pine? Because it's the tree that built Tidewater! Not only is it a sturdy, long-lived southern pine with a fascinating ecology but, historically, it played a significant role in developing the early local economy and port system. It's also considered to be an ideal tree for long-term storage of carbon, meaning it can absorb excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere which contributes to the greenhouse gas effect and use it for photosynthesis. Hope you got your tree!

Biocontrol Initiative



No matter how meticulously you are at managing a greenhouse, pesky little insects like aphids and mealy bugs always seem to find a way in. Instead of resorting to harsh insecticides to manage outbreaks in our production greenhouse, we're using a native insect as a natural control. Lacewings are a beneficial insect whose larvae have a voracious appetite for soft-bodied insects, especially aphids. If an outbreak occurs that exceeds the lacewing's control, we will use ecologically-friendly treatments like horticultural oil or a soap and alcohol solution.

Did you know one large tree can provide a day's worth of oxygen for four people?



Left to right: Charles MacConochie, NBG Tour Operations Coordinator and Sam Lancke, NBG Nursery Assistant carry in the longleaf pine seedlings into Baker Hall Visitor Center.



We've all heard about composting but do you know how it happens? You will soon! We're planning a compost demonstration area to bring more attention to this valuable and essential garden practice. Look for backyard composting examples that will work for just about any garden.



Many of our environmentally-friendly practices take place behind the scenes. Most folks don't know that we have beehives on our property because they've been kept in a part of the Garden that's off-limits to our guests. Soon you'll be able to see these busy pollinators and their sweet rewards up close.