

Specialty Crops Management

Diploma (D141)

Required Courses

Required Discipline Courses

SCMT 1110	System Goal Setting	1 cr
SCMT 1111	Introduction to Specialty Crops	2 cr
SCMT 1112	Intro to Financial Planning Analysis.....	2 cr
SCMT 1114	Marketing of Specialty Crops	2 cr
SCMT 1116	Introduction to Soils and Plant Growth.....	2 cr
SCMT 1117	Pest Identification and Control	2 cr
SCMT 1119	Pesticide Safety and Handling	2 cr
SCMT 1121	Fertilizer Selection, Handling Application...	2 cr
SCMT 1124	Irrigation Planning and Management	2 cr
SCMT 1135	Labor, Risk and Tax Management	2 cr
SCMT 2125	Advertising and Customer Relations	2 cr
SCMT 2127	Advanced Financial Planning & Analysis	2 cr
SCMT 2131	Advanced Soils and Plant Nutrition	2 cr
SCMT 2132	Advanced Marketing Strategies	2 cr
SCMT 2136	Advanced Pest Identification & Control	2 cr
SCMT 2000	Special Topics in Soil Management	1 cr
SCMT 2200	Current Issues in Specialty Crop Marketing	1 cr
SCMT 2334	Value Added Opportunities for Specialty Crops.....	1 cr

Students must select an additional 12 credits from the following SCMT courses:

SCMT 1100	Farm Business Basics	1-4 cr
SCMT 1105	Beginning Vegetable Production	1-4 cr
SCMT 1232	Post Harvest Processing of Specialty Crops	1 cr
SCMT 1241	Alternative Crop Systems	2 cr
SCMT 1243	Cultural Practices for Specialty Crops.....	2 cr
SCMT 2305	Legal Issues for Specialty Crop Growers.....	2 cr
SCMT 2320	Family and Business Relationships	2 cr
SCMT 2325	Tree Fruit Production Basics.....	2 cr
SCMT 2327	Orchard Planning	2 cr
SCMT 2329	Orchard Training and Pruning	2 cr
SCMT 2330	Business Math for Specialty Crop Producers.....	2 cr
SCMT 2335	Labor Economics and Management	2 cr
SCMT 2350	Small Fruit Production Basics	2 cr
SCMT 2360	Planning for Vegetable Production	2 cr
SCMT 2363	Vegetable Diseases.....	2 cr
SCMT 2400	Special Topics-Business Plans	1-4 cr
SCMT 2500	Special Topics-Cultural Practices	1-4 cr

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT - 44 CREDITS

Description

Education for the Specialty Crops Management program is primarily delivered at the business of the student. This individualized instruction allows the instructor to design an educational program that specifically addresses the student's needs and can be delivered at the most appropriate time. Education is also delivered through annual meetings, where students are able to meet each other and through monthly newsletters, phone calls, and personal email.

Outcomes

By completing this program, students will achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Develop business and personal goals;
- Evaluate the agronomic needs of the farm operation;
- Utilize financial analysis to determine market channel opportunities; and
- Implement appropriate types of risk management for the farm operation.

Pre-Program Requirements

The program is open to any fruit or vegetable grower in the state of Minnesota who wants to participate in the program.

Some courses may require students to meet College Placement Levels in reading, writing, and/or math. See an advisor for more information.

Graduation Requirements

In addition to the program requirements, students must meet the following conditions in order to graduate:

- College Cumulative GPA Requirement: cumulative grade point average (GPA) of credits attempted and completed at CLC must be at least 2.0;
- College Technical Core GPA Requirement: cumulative GPA of credits attempted and completed towards the technical core of the diploma or degree must be at least 2.0;
- Residency Requirement: students must complete 25% of their credits at Central Lakes College.

Career & Transfer

Students enrolled in the Specialty Crops Management Diploma program include people who want to make their living growing and selling fruits and vegetables, as well as those who want to supplement their income. Roughly one third of the students in the program are supplementing their retirement income. Demand for locally grown fruits and vegetables is increasing rapidly. There is a good future for small acreage landowners who want to earn money by growing fruits and vegetables.

Academic Plan

Individual semester plans are determined between instructor/advisor and student to best meet the needs of the student.