

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

## How to Become a Master Gardener

*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office*



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Dr. William Johnson is a horticulturist with the Galveston County Office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Visit his website at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston>.

**The next Galveston County Master Gardener training course will begin in February 2019. The course curriculum will include a diverse variety of classroom and outdoor learning activities. Pictured is Lanny Dreesen (retired Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Urban Forester and Professor) conducting an outdoor learning exercise for class members in a Master Gardener training course.**

*News column printed in the Galveston Daily News, The Post, and other Galveston County Newspapers.*

Gardeners by nature are great people and our Galveston County Master Gardeners volunteers exemplify the very best in unselfishly providing volunteer service that benefits residents throughout the county. The Galveston County Master Gardener program was started in

1982 and we are celebrating our 36th anniversary this year.

We are the second oldest county Master Gardener program in the State of Texas. The number of counties implementing Master Gardener programs has grown

significantly over the years and currently there are over 100 Texas counties with Master Gardener programs.

So, how does one become a Master Gardener? To learn more about the Galveston County Master Gardener Program



and how to become a Master Gardener, you are invited to attend a presentation entitled "What Is a Galveston County Master Gardener?" on Saturday, November 10, at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park (4102-B Main Street, La Marque) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. A panel of Master Gardener Interns from the 2018 class will conduct a forum-style presentation where they will discuss the many facets of this volunteer program including the application process, the training course and what to expect after completion of the course. Pre-registration is requested to ensure availability of handouts (phone 281-309-5065 or e-mail [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com)).

Texas Master Gardeners are a corps of highly trained volunteers who help people and communities through horticultural education. Texas Master Gardeners are people from the local community that have completed sixty-five hours of classroom instruction and provided 50 hours of volunteer service to help provide county programs on horticultural issues.

Most of the Master Gardener training classes are taught by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension professors who are widely recognized in their areas of expertise. The course curriculum will include botany, soils and soil fertility, plant propagation, plant disease identification and management, pesticide safety, weed identification and management, vegetables, insect

identification and management, composting, turf grasses and home vegetable production.

The Master Gardener volunteer experience is all about learning and you will come away from the training much more knowledgeable than when you started. If you choose to join this organization, you will enjoy a learning experience that will last a lifetime. Your experience not only will be rewarding, but you will also gain a huge family of friends from diverse backgrounds.

The 18-session training program begins on Tuesday, February 5. Classes meet Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Extension Office until April 11. Applications will be made available during the "What Is a Galveston County Master Gardener" presentation on November 10. Applications can also be downloaded from our website (<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>) as well as other important information. Applications will be accepted until Thursday, December 6. Don't miss this great opportunity.

**At a Glance**

WHAT: Master Gardener Plant Sale  
 WHEN: Thursday, November 8  
 TIME: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
 WHERE: Discovery Garden located in Carbide Park (4102 Main Street) in La Marque.  
 SALE PLANTS: Diverse variety of citrus trees in addition to perennials. All plants reduced 30%.

WHAT: What Is a Galveston County Master Gardener  
 WHEN: Saturday, November 10  
 TIME: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
 TOPICS: A panel of Galveston County Master Gardener Interns will explain who Master Gardeners are and how to become one. Master Gardeners are members of the local community who take an active interest in lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers, and gardens. They are enthusiastic, willing to learn and help others, and able to communicate with diverse groups of people. In addition to the presentation, Master Gardeners Interns will answer questions and facilitate discussion.

WHAT: Soil Health  
 WHEN: Thursday, November 10  
 TIME: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
 TOPICS: Galveston County Master Gardener Jim Gilliam's presentation will discuss how to evaluate the "health" of your garden soil. With only a spade and a wire flag, he will show how to conduct 18 tests that will allow you to determine your soil's quality. Building great soil is the most important step to take for successful gardening.

LOCATION: Both programs on November 10 will be conducted at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office located in Carbide Park (4102-B Main St. in La Marque). Pre-register by e-mail ([galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com)) or phone (281-309-5065).

