



## About the Texas Master Gardener Program

### Who are Texas Master Gardeners?

Master Gardeners are members of the local community who take an active interest in their lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers and gardens. They are enthusiastic, willing to learn and to help others, and able to communicate with diverse groups of people.

What really sets Master Gardeners apart from other home gardeners is their special training in horticulture. In exchange for their training, persons who become Master Gardeners contribute time as volunteers, working through their AgriLife Extension office to provide horticultural-related information to their communities.

### Is the Master Gardener Program for Me?

To help you decide if you should apply to be a Master Gardener, ask yourself these questions:

- Do I want to learn more about the culture and maintenance of many types of plants?
- Am I eager to participate in a practical and intense training program?
- Do I look forward to sharing my knowledge with people in my community?
- Do I have enough time to attend training and to complete the volunteer service?

### Training

If accepted into the Master Gardener program in your county, you will attend a Master Gardener training course. Classes are taught by Texas AgriLife Extension specialists, agents, and local experts.

The program offers a minimum of 50 hours of instruction that covers topics including lawn care, ornamental trees and shrubs, insect, disease, and weed management; soils and plant nutrition, vegetable gardening; home fruit production; garden flowers; and water conservation. The training is being done in a series of classes that is broken up in sections. If a section is missed then that section can be taken to complete your certification in the next year.

## Requirements

To become a Certified Texas Master Gardener, trainees must fulfill the following requirements:

- Completion of basic training from the Master Gardener curriculum
- 50 hours minimum of volunteer service on approved projects.
- 6 hours minimum of advanced training.

To maintain an active status on an on-going basis:

- 25 hours minimum of volunteer service on approved projects annually
- 6 hours minimum of advanced training annually

## Volunteer Service Hours

Volunteer service hours should be performed during activities that are:

Educational in nature, as opposed to service or maintenance-type work.

Supportive of Texas AgriLife Extension Service's mission, objectives, and issues.

Identified as sponsored (or co-sponsored) by Texas AgriLife Extension Service

- Master Gardeners should wear Master Gardener name badges and/or shirts/apparel.
- Collaborations with other organizations are important, but Extension does not supply other organizations with volunteers to do their work.
- A Master Gardener's volunteer hours may be claimed for credited with the Master Gardener program or another organization, but not both.

Approved in advance for volunteer hours by the County Extension Agent/Master Gardener Coordinator.