



The Texas Master Gardener Program



The Texas Master Gardener Program is a volunteer development program of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Master Gardener volunteers receive in-depth horticultural training. In return, they provide volunteer service through AgriLife Extension by delivering horticultural education to their communities. Program participants should be able to communicate with the public by telephone, personal contact (*this will be modified as long as the COVID pandemic is ongoing*), as a speaker or through written correspondence. Master Gardener volunteers serve as “horticultural docents” supervised by AgriLife Extension personnel who assign, review, and facilitate volunteer work.

Step 1: To gain the title of **Master Gardener Intern**, a Trainee

- receives a minimum of fifty (50) hours of instruction
- passes an examination

The volunteer aspect of the Master Gardener program allows individuals to dedicate their time and talents to educate and enhance their local community utilizing the science and art of horticulture.

Step 2: Master Gardener **Interns**:

- give 50 hours of volunteer service in AgriLife Extension initiated projects in Taylor County and surrounding areas within **one year** of their **training date**
- are certified as a Master Gardener when all requirements are met

Step 3: **Re-certification** of a Big Country Master Gardener is an annual process that requires:

- 6 Volunteer Extension hours
- 12 Volunteer Community Service hours
- 6 Continuing Education hours

Important information:

- **Cost:** Cost of the training is \$200.00 payable by February 10, 2021, following acceptance into the Big Country Master Gardener Intern Program.
- Classes run by February 11th through May 4th. See page 5 for tentative schedule.
- All classes will be virtual until a time at which we can switch over to in-person.
- Access to a computer, and/or a cellphone, and access to internet will be needed to join in on the virtual training sessions.
- **Minors:** You must be 18 or older to take the course, unless accompanied by a parent who is also taking the course.
- **Refunds:** No refunds will be given after the beginning of the first session.

Please contact the Taylor County Extension Office with any questions.

Dawnyel Luckie

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

1982 Lytle Way

Abilene TX 79602

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325-672-6048



Big County Master Gardener Training Application 2021

Application Deadline: February 1, 2021

Training begins February 11th and runs through May 4th. Class size is limited to 20 members. The cost of the training is \$200.00, payable before the start of the first Session (upon acceptance into the program). A background check is required on all applicants participating in the Master Gardener Intern program. Most classes (when in person) will be held at the Taylor County Extension office located at 1982 Lytle Way in Abilene. See page 5 for a tentative schedule and topics covered.

1. Applicant's Information:

Name: (please print) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

2. Why do you want to become a volunteer in Extension's Big Country Master Gardener Association volunteer program? (Useful training, increase skills/knowledge, give back to the community, personal accomplishment, creative use of time, etc.) _____

3. What is your gardening/horticulture and related fields experience and/or training? Include experience or knowledge of vegetables, herbs, roses, composting, propagation, turf, trees, fruit, nuts, perennials, etc. What is your gardening story? – When did you start gardening, have you worked professionally in horticulture or a related field, what is your favorite thing about gardening, etc.

4. How did you learn about Extension’s Big Country Master Gardener Volunteer Program?

5. Volunteer and/or community service: List the organization and what you do/did: (school/youth group/church/hospital/civic group)

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

6. Are you presently employed, and if so, where?

7. Times available for volunteering:

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

8. Please answer the following questions on the scale of 0=Not Important to 5=Most Important

- I will be able to increase my knowledge of gardening. _____
- I will be able to gain new skills as a gardener. _____
- I will be able to provide a service to those in my community/neighborhood. _____
- I will have the opportunity to share my knowledge with other gardeners. _____
- I will gain a great deal of personal satisfaction. _____

9. Statements of agreement

- I wish to apply to the Big Country Master Gardener Association, sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.
- I understand all classes will be virtual until at a time which we can switch over to in-person.
- Once accepted, I understand I must pay a \$200 training fee for materials and speakers by February 10, 2021.
- I understand there are no refunds after the start of the first session.
- I understand I must attend at least 10 of the 12 training sessions and pass a final exam to become a Master Gardener Intern. I then must complete 50 hours of volunteer work in a twelve-month time period, before becoming a Certified Master Gardener.
- I understand that the Master Gardener program is a program sponsored by the Taylor County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.
- I understand that as a Certified Texas Master Gardener, I represent the Taylor County office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and The Texas A&M System and will adhere to their policies and guidelines.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please return completed application to Taylor Co. Extension Office
1982 Lytle Way
Abilene, TX 79602

Questions may be directed to the Taylor County Extension office at 325-672-6048 or via e-mail to:
dawnyel.luckie@ag.tamu.edu.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in any AgriLife Extension activity are encouraged to contact the Taylor County Extension Office to discuss specific needs.



Educational programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating



**Big Country Master Gardener
 Spring Training 2021
 Tentative Schedule**

(dates are subject to change due to speaker availability)

Session	Date	Topics
Session 1	Thursday, February 11 6-9 PM	Orientation / Plant Growth & Development
Session 2	Thursday, February 18 6-9 PM	Soils & Soil Fertility
Session 3	Thursday, February 25 6-9 PM	Vegetable & Herb Gardening
Session 4	Tuesday, March 2 6-9 PM	Fruit & Nut Production Irrigation
Session 5	Saturday, March 20 9-12 PM	EarthKind
Session 6	Thursday, March 25 6-9 PM	Turfgrass Management
Session 7	Tuesday, March 30 6-9 PM	Introduction to Projects
Session 8	Thursday, April 8 6-9 PM	Plant Id Plant Sale Prep
Session 9	Saturday, April 17 9-4 PM	Propagation Rain Barrel Construction
Session 10	Thursday, April 22 6-9 PM	Plant Pest Problems (Entomology)
Session 11	Tuesday, April 27 6-9 PM	Landscape Principles
Session 12	Saturday, May 1 8-1 PM	Water as it relates to plant life.
Graduation	Tuesday, May 4 6-9 PM	Graduation