

Become a Extension Master Gardener Volunteer

Who are Guilford County Extension Master Gardener Volunteers?

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

Is the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program for Me?

To help you decide if you should apply to be an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer, 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?

If you answered yes to these questions, the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program could be for you. Contact our local Extension Office at 336-641-2400 or go to: http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2014/08/2014_emgv_application.pdf to obtain an application.

Training

If accepted into the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program in your county, you will attend a Extension Master Gardener Volunteer training course. Classes are taught by North Carolina Cooperative 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 held at the Guilford County Agricultural Center located at 3309 Burlington Road in Greensboro. Classes are held each winter starting in January, on Wednesday Mornings from 9 till 12.

Volunteer Commitment

In exchange for training, participants are asked to volunteer time to their County Extension program. At least 50 hours of volunteer service within one year following the training is required to earn the title of “NC Extension Master Gardener Volunteer.”

The type of service done by Master Gardeners varies according to community needs, and the abilities and interests of the Master Gardeners. Some Master Gardeners answer telephone requests for information related to gardening. Others staff plant clinics or displays at farmers markets or community centers. Master Gardeners may speak to local groups and conduct workshops. They may help establish community garden projects, work with 4-H youth, or assist the agent with news or radio releases related to gardening.

Extension Master Gardeners Volunteers are representatives of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service. In all volunteer work related to the program, Extension Master Gardener Volunteers follow the research-based recommendations of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service. The title “Extension Master Gardener Volunteer” can be used by volunteers only when engaged in Extension-sponsored activities.

Certification

Participants become certified Extension Master Gardeners Volunteers after they have completed the training course and fulfilled their volunteer commitment.