

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Orange County Center  
North Carolina Cooperative Extension  
P. O. Box 8181  
306-E Revere Rd.  
Hillsborough, NC 27278  
919-245-2050

TO: Individuals interested in the Master Gardener Program

FROM: Carl Matyac, Ph.D.  
Horticultural Extension Agent

RE: Master Gardener Course Information

Thank you for your interest in the Orange County Master Gardener Program. This volunteer program represents an outstanding opportunity to learn new horticultural skills and at the same time make a significant contribution to your community. We have a very active program with a wide variety of designated volunteer opportunities. Our mission is "Help Gardeners put Knowledge to Work".

We offer the Master Gardener training every other year. In Orange County instructions begins in the first week of September after Labor day and proceeds through January of the following year. We have already filled the 2012 class and the next class will start in the fall in 2014. An application is enclosed. The deadline for receiving an application is August 1, 2014. I will keep your application on file and keep you updated about interviews. The interview is a part of the application process and will be a good opportunity for me to discuss the designated volunteer opportunities and answer any questions you might have.

The MG training will be held at Orange County Extension Center, Hillsborough, North Carolina. Classes meet Wednesday mornings from 9:00am to 12:30pm. Extension Specialists, County Agents and Master Gardeners will teach classes. It is important that you understand that this is a comprehensive course, all classes need to be attended. You will be required to volunteer for 40 hours supporting designated Extension sponsored Master Gardener activities to become a Certified Master Gardener. If accepted into the program, there will be a \$95.00 fee to cover texts and refreshments. If this fee presents a financial burden, scholarships are available.

In the meantime if you are interested in gardening classes but choose not to become a volunteer, I suggest you consider classes offered through the Orange County and the Chapel Hill Parks Departments, the North Carolina Botanical Garden, Duke Gardens, Durham Technical Community College or Alamance Community College.

Please call me at 245 2051 or email at [carl\\_matyac@ncsu.edu](mailto:carl_matyac@ncsu.edu). if you have any questions about the program. Please call the Master Gardener to discuss any home landscape questions you might have. They can be reached most mornings at 245 2061.

Thanks again for your interest and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Happy Gardening.