



WHO...

are Extension Master Gardeners?

Virginia Master Gardeners are volunteer educators who work within their communities to encourage and promote environmentally sound horticulture practices through sustainable landscape management education and training. As an educational program of Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Master Gardeners bring the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, to the people of the commonwealth.

The VCE Master Gardener program is made up of more than 5,500 active and certified Master Gardener volunteers throughout Virginia who contribute over 350,000 hours of volunteer service each year. Almost 1,000 new volunteers are trained annually.

Extension Master Gardeners work specifically toward the following goals:

- Enhancing the environment through sustainable landscape practices
- Using horticulture and landscaping to positively impact youth
- Using horticulture and landscaping to promote community development and economic growth
- Producing food in public and private gardens to improve human nutrition and food security
- Using horticulture to improve the overall quality of life for Virginia's citizens



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please visit us online:
loudouncountymastergardeners.org

Or contact:

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If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact the Loudoun County Extension Office at 703-777-0373 (TDD*) during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.
 *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

Becoming an Extension
MASTER GARDENER
 of Loudoun County



*Sharing Knowledge.
 Empowering Communities.*





How...

do I become an Extension Master Gardener?

The 70-hour training program provides research-based information on a variety of horticultural and environmental topics. Training sessions are offered annually from January to April. Preregistration is required. Contact the Loudoun County VCE office for more information (loudouncountymastergardeners.org).

When...

do I become an Extension Master Gardener?

By completing the classroom instruction, you become a Master Gardener Intern. The title of VCE Master Gardener is granted after you complete a minimum of 75 hours of volunteer service conducting horticultural education programs.

To complete annual recertification you must:

- Contribute at least 25 hours of volunteer service each year
- Participate in at least 8 hours of continuing education



Why...

become an Extension Master Gardener?

By sharing sound horticultural knowledge and teaching environmentally responsible landscape practices, Extension Master Gardeners improve communities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

“With the Master Gardener program there’s always more to learn & there’s always more being developed to learn.” - Barbara

Sharing
Knowledge.



Empowering
Communities.

“The Master Gardener program is great because it combines two things that you love - your community & gardening.” - Jim

Extension Master Gardener training involves a variety of topics:

- Botany
- Soils & fertilizer
- Entomology (insects)
- Propagation
- Vegetables
- Fruits
- Turf
- Woody plants
- Herbaceous plants
- Water quality
- Pruning
- Plant pathology (diseases)
- Plant damage (diagnosis)
- Pesticides
- Landscape design
- Indoor foliage



What...

do Extension Master Gardeners do?

- Provide guidance on sustainable landscapes
- Conduct plant clinics
- Oversee teaching and demonstration gardens
- Staff the VCE Master Gardener Help Desk
- Run annual spring educational seminars

Locally, Loudoun County Extension Master Gardeners make a difference by participating in specific projects including:

- **Stewardship**, education programming as aspects of natural resources stewardship: soil conservation and water quality.
- **Garden to Table**, education programming as an aspect of residential and community food production.
- **Help Desk**, providing residents with answers to horticultural issues, plant identification, and integrated pest management solutions.
- **Demonstration Garden**, offering ornamental and edible plant education for the entire community, and bountiful harvests to the local food bank.