

Master Gardener Volunteer Training Information

Are you interested in learning the science behind what makes plants grow and a garden successful? Do you have a desire to share knowledge and skills with various communities and nonprofit organizations? Does becoming a community ambassador bring excitement and purpose to your life? Then the Master Gardener volunteer training program might be right for you!

This program is an extensive curriculum-based training program that will provide you with the tools and expertise to further the mission of Cooperative Extension by educating and assisting local communities in their horticultural efforts. It will cover a wide range of topics in approximately 11 weeks of classroom instruction. As program providers, we pride ourselves on presenting factual, research-based recommendations suitable to Central Kentucky, and we encourage participants to improve the quality of their home and community environments by using this information.

With completion of the course, participants become certified master gardeners after fulfilling 40 hours of volunteer service split between external nonprofit organizations and internal master gardener initiatives. The program will be held at the Fayette County Extension Office (1140 Harry Sykes Way).

We offer the program beginning in September of alternating years. The level of interest in our program far exceeds the number of seats available in each class. We will interview all candidates to identify those with the most interest in long-term volunteer commitments with Cooperative Extension.

Classes will meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until noon for roughly 11 weeks beginning after Labor Day. In addition to class attendance, students are required to complete a homework assignment and quiz for each class session. Students will also prepare and submit insect and tree collections outside of class time. Students are allowed 2 absences from class, regardless of circumstances, and the third absence equates to dismissal from the program.

After the classroom portion, students are required to pass a comprehensive final exam with a minimum score of 70%. Students who successfully pass the classroom portion become apprentice Extension Master Gardeners for the following year while they complete 40 hours of volunteer service in assigned activities. After completing the 40-hour volunteer requirement, apprentices become fully certified Extension Master Gardener volunteers by the end of 2025. After the initial apprentice year, volunteers remain certified by volunteering a minimum of 20 hours and earning 10 Continuing Education Units (CEU) per year.

The cost of the Fayette County Extension Master Gardener training program is \$150.00 which includes textbooks and other materials. We do offer partial and full scholarships to the program in exchange for additional volunteer time. A full scholarship will require 80 hours of volunteer time throughout the following year. A partial scholarship requires 60 hours of volunteer time. Class fees are non-refundable if a student withdraws or is dismissed from the program.

Since our greatest need for volunteers coincides with our office hours, we do not offer this program as an evening or weekend class. If you feel up to the challenge and would like to join the ranks of our highly skilled volunteers, please consider applying for the 2024 Extension Master Gardener Program.

Complete the paperwork and mail or drop it off at the front office of the Fayette County Extension Office.

Deadline to apply is: July 1, 2024



Kentucky Extension
Master Gardener

KENTUCKY MASTER GARDENER APPLICATION

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Please answer each question thoroughly and thoughtfully. It is our objective to offer a quality program to committed, interested individuals. PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____
(FIRST) (LAST)

ADDRESS: _____
(STREET) (CITY) (ZIP)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

CHECK IT OFTEN? Y or N

PHONE: Cell: _____ Best time to call: _____ a.m./p.m.

OCCUPATION: (CURRENT AND/OR PREVIOUS)

Indicate highest educational level you attained:

High School _____ Graduate School _____
Undergraduate School _____ List advanced degree _____

Do you have any special needs? If yes, please describe:

What is your interest or experience in horticulture (gardening)?

Why are you interested in becoming a volunteer?

Have you done volunteer work before? ____ Yes ____ No ____
If yes, when and what type:

Are you able to attend all 8-14 class sessions with only one excused absence? **YES NO**

Would you be available for tours, demonstrations, or volunteering on the weekends?

Yes ___ No___ If yes, when? Saturday: A.M. or P.M. (circle one)

In a few words, please state why you would like to become a Kentucky Master Gardener and any other relevant skills you might have.

I wish to become a University of Kentucky Master Gardener and agree to attend the training program. I understand that after attending all the training classes, I will participate in a forty (40) hours internship to the Cooperative Extension Service to be completed in the following 12 months. I also agree to honor the Master Gardener title and use it only in reference to Extension programs and activities and not for personal gain.

Signature _____ Date _____

Return Application to:
**Master Gardener Application
Fayette County Extension Service
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504**