How to Become a Master Gardener

The Penn State Extension Master Gardener basic training program is open to individuals interested in becoming volunteers and sharing gardening knowledge with the public through community outreach. The intensive horticultural training is taught by Extension educators and University professors.

Basic training class schedules vary based on location and include the following topics: botany, plant propagation, soil health and fertilizer management, composting, controlling pests safely, entomology, plant diseases, indoor plants, vegetables, lawn care, pruning, woody ornamentals, herbaceous plants, native plants, weeds and invasives. The training fee includes a copy of the Penn State Master Gardener Manual.

Each trainee is expected to attend all core classes with any missed sessions being made up by reviewing the online recorded training class.

Application
Before completing the Master Gardener application, contact the county Extension office in your area for an updated schedule of classes and program cost. Financial aid may be available through your local Extension office. Basic training for Master Gardeners is not offered annually in every county. Send the completed application to the county where you reside.

Master Gardener Application Form (pdf)

Questions
Contact your county Master Gardener program with any questions.

extension.psu.edu

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