

Florida Master Gardener Program

Is Master Gardening for you?

To help you decide, ask yourself the following questions:

- Do I want to learn more about plants, growing things, and gardening?
- Am I eager to participate in a practical and intensive training program?
- Do I look forward to sharing my knowledge with people in my community?
- Do I have enough time to attend the training and to complete my volunteer work?

If you answered yes to these questions, the Master Gardener Program could be for you.

What is the Master Gardener Program?

- The Master Gardener Program provides gardeners with intensive education in home horticultural principles. Participants who complete the program are certified as Master Gardeners by the Florida Extension Service.
- Working with the Extension Agent, Master Gardeners provide volunteer leadership and service to their community in gardening activities. As a Master Gardener you will work with the Extension program and have the opportunity to participate in organized volunteer activities. This service consists of such things as answering gardening questions, conducting plant clinics, beautifying the community, and other activities which promote environmentally friendly horticultural practices.
- After receiving intensive horticultural training and satisfactorily meeting other program requirements, Master Gardeners are required to volunteer for 50 – 100 hours (depending on the county) within a one year period.
- Many Master Gardeners far exceed the required service hours, some giving over 200 hours per year. Many also continue in the program beyond the first year because of their interest and willingness to help others and the personal satisfaction derived from participation in this community service program.

Continued Master Gardener training

- The learning process never ends for Master Gardeners. Continued training is offered each year on the state level to keep Master Gardeners up-to-date on the latest horticultural information. Many counties also offer additional training opportunities in their local area.

How to become a Master Gardener

- The desire to help others is a first and absolute requirement. A personal commitment to complete the training and to serve the required volunteer service hours is equally important.
- To learn more about becoming a Master Gardener, contact your local County Extension Office (the telephone number is listed with county government offices in your telephone directory). Enrollment is limited and selection is highly competitive, so call today and learn how you can become a Florida Master Gardener.

For More Information:

Contact the Pasco County Extension Office at (352) 521-4288



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