

What is the Master Gardener Program?

Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who aid University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension by helping people in their communities better understand horticulture and their environment. This national program was introduced to Wisconsin in the late seventies. The Master Gardener Program is in all 50 states and several countries.

The goal of the program is to educate and encourage volunteers to help enhance the public's knowledge and awareness of horticulture and natural science. Benefits of participation in the program include new interests, exploration, research, friendships, recognition, self-confidence, leadership and education.

Who Can Participate?

Any adult interested in gardening and volunteering in their community can participate—no previous experience or training is necessary. Enrollment in class is on a first-come basis.



Requirements to Become a Certified Master Gardener

Students attend classes to receive approximately 36 hours of training on a variety of gardening and landscaping topics. These topics include basic botany, soil science, fruits, vegetables, diseases, insects, annual and perennial flowers, trees and shrubs, backyard wildlife, lawn care, native plants, and more!

In return, students are required to volunteer 24 hours of their time to the community helping others learn about horticulture and gardening.

Upon **completion of the training, passing a final exam, completing a criminal background check, and fulfilling the volunteer requirements**, the University of Wisconsin will certify students as Wisconsin Master Gardener Volunteers.

To maintain certification, Master Gardeners Volunteers complete 24 hours of volunteer service and 10 hours of continuing education each year.

Becoming a certified Wisconsin Master Gardener Volunteer is a great way to enrich your life and the lives of others!

I am applying to become a Master Gardener Volunteer, representing Extension. I pledge to complete the required 24 hours of volunteer service to become a certified Master Gardener Volunteer.

Signature:

I am interested in doing the following types of volunteer activities:

- Education displays (such as at fairs and other events)
- Teach programs for adults or youth
- Coordinate other volunteers
- Organize, plant, maintain demonstration, youth or community gardens
- Community beautification (placemaking)
- Other: (please specify)

Please list any past horticulture education you have received or volunteer experience you've had:



Spring, 2020 Master Gardener Training Level I

Eau Claire County
Extension Office
Altoona, WI



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Location & Dates

The Master Gardener training is offered on 8 Saturday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m and 2 Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Eau Claire County Extension Office, 227 1st Street West, Altoona, WI 54720.

Saturday Class Days

March 28
April 4, 11, 25
May 2, 9, 16, 23

Thursday Class Days

April 16
May 28

Class size is limited so register early. Registration deadline is **March 20, 2020.**

Program Fee: \$60.00

(\$90.00 for two people from same household who share written materials.)

Materials include the Master Gardener study manual, other course handouts, plus monthly newsletter.

For More Information

Contact Margaret Murphy
Horticulture Outreach Specialist
Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire and Polk
Phone: 715-726-7957
Email: margaret.murphy@wisc.edu

University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating. An EEO/AA employer, Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX and American with Disabilities (ADA) requirements.

Spring 2020 Master Gardener Training (Level I) Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Street City State Zip

Email: _____ Ph. _____

Fee: \$60.00 / person or \$90.00 / couple shared materials (make check payable to Eau Claire County Extension)

Mail registration to Eau Claire County Extension, 227 1st St., West, Altoona, WI 54720.

To pay by credit or debit card go to Paylocalgov.com/EauClaire-UWEX