

Become a Master Gardener

Do you like to garden? Are you interested in helping others? Do you like to volunteer to help others? Would you like to learn more about gardening? If you answered yes to some or all of these questions, you may want to look into the OSUE Master Gardener Volunteer Program.



This program provides intensive training in horticulture to interested Ohio residents who then volunteer their time assisting with educational programs and activities for Ohio residents through their local Ohio State University Extension county office. Volunteers are not required to have gardening skills or knowledge; a passion for learning about gardening and sharing this knowledge with others is a must! Working with county OSUE personnel, Master Gardener Volunteers provide such educational services to their communities such as: answering gardening questions from the public; conducting plant clinics; gardening activities with children, senior citizens, or disabled persons; beautifying the community; developing community or demonstration gardens; and other horticultural activities.

The Master Gardener Volunteer program began in Ohio in the 1970's. Today, more than 3,500 Master Gardeners volunteer their time and services in over 60 Ohio counties. Last year Master Gardeners spent over 150,000 hours leading projects, giving horticultural presentations and raising gardening awareness. Their volunteer efforts resulted in \$3.3 million worth of community service contributions throughout Ohio.

You could qualify to be an Ohio Master Gardener Volunteer if: 1) You want to learn more about plants and gardening; 2) You are eager to participate in a practical and intensive training program; 3) You enjoy sharing your knowledge with others; and 4) You have the time to attend training and serve your community as a volunteer educator.

To become an OSUE Master Gardener Volunteer you must:

1. Be accepted into the Master Gardener program by completing the volunteer application. Please note that the class size is limited. Trainees will be selected based upon their application and their availability and willingness to complete their training and volunteer requirements. Applications can be found online at <https://go.osu.edu/2020app> or picked up at your local extension office. Please email, mail, or drop off your completed application to your local OSUE extension Office no later than September 18, 2020.
2. Complete the formal training provided by The Ohio State University Extension. The training is approximately 50 hours and participants must pass all quizzes and examinations with a cumulative average of 70% or better.
3. Complete 50 hours of volunteer time on projects pre-approved by the Master Gardener coordinator. This volunteer time must be finished within one calendar year after their formal training.

Training will begin September 22 and end on November 10. Classes will be held every Tuesday and Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Training will be offered virtually by using Zoom. (For more information and help with using Zoom, visit <https://go.osu.edu/mgvinfo>)

The 2020 class costs \$150.00 plus the cost of a required background check. **Please register no later than September 7, 2020.**

What are the benefits of becoming an OSUE Master Gardener Volunteer? The list for me, personally, would have to include: meeting new gardening friends, access to research-based gardening information, and the opportunity to spread the joy of gardening in my community!