

## Request for More Information

Yes, I'm interested in learning more about the Master Gardener Program. Please send me more information and an official application.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:

University of Illinois Extension—McLean County  
402 N. Hershey Road  
Bloomington, IL 61704

University of Illinois Extension  
402 N. Hershey Rd.  
Bloomington, IL 61704



## Helping Others Learn to Grow

**Discover How  
You Can Become a  
Master Gardener Volunteer**

**Contact  
University of Illinois Extension  
McLean County  
402 N. Hershey Road  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
309-663-8306  
309-663-8270**

# You Can Be A University of Illinois Master Gardener

## What is the Master Gardener Program?

The University of Illinois Master Gardener program is an educational volunteer training program. The purpose of the program is to offer University-based horticultural information to the community through trained volunteers known as Master Gardeners.

## Master Gardener Mission

The mission of our program is "Helping Others Learn to Grow." The McLean County Master Gardener program promotes the common interests of all gardeners, educates the public on environmentally practical gardening techniques and provides continuing education activities for its members.

University of Illinois - U.S. Department of Agriculture - Local Extension Councils Cooperating

University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

## How to Become a Master Gardener

Applicants are recruited and informally interviewed. Once accepted, trainees are required to attend all classes, which are scheduled one day a week from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, starting in January and continuing through April. Weekly take-home quizzes are given along with a comprehensive final examination.

## Training Content

Classes are taught by University of Illinois Extension Educators and Horticulture specialists. Comprehensive manuals are utilized.

The Master Gardener training covers home horticulture topics\* including:

- Vegetable Gardening
- Tree and Small Fruits
- Basic Entomology
- Integrated Pest Management
- Plant Pathology
- Turfgrass Management
- Herbaceous Ornamentals
- Tree and Shrub Care
- Soils and Fertilizer
- Woody Ornamentals
- Basic Botany
- Volunteering Basics

## Commitments as a Master Gardener

Following the training sessions, Master Gardener interns are required to complete a 60-hour internship through approved volunteer services which include:

- Preparing and staffing exhibits/displays
- Giving demonstrations or talks to local groups
- Answering home gardening questions at the Extension Office
- Serving on a Master Gardener committee
- Representing the Master Gardener program on local radio talk shows

Annual volunteer and education hours are required to maintain the active Master Gardener certification.

## How Do I apply?

If you would like more information about the Master Gardener program, please complete and return the form on the reverse side.