



Dear Gardening Enthusiast:

Thank you for your interest in the Master Gardener Program. This program is a unique volunteer and educational opportunity offered by the University of Arkansas-Cooperative Extension Service. It is designed to increase the availability of horticultural information and improve the quality of life in our community with horticultural projects.

Master Gardener Volunteers are trained by University of Arkansas faculty, Extension Specialists, Agents, and accomplished local authorities. ***The actual training dates will be on the last THURSDAY in January and all THURSDAYS in February from 8am to 4pm at the Garland County Fairgrounds.*** The class fee which covers the Master Gardener's book, nametag, materials, lunch, breaks and the first year dues will be approximately \$125 but may be adjusted at a later date. After completing the training and passing an examination, Master Gardeners must agree to share their knowledge by volunteering at least 40 hours of work on projects within the year and 20 hours of further education in order to fulfill requirements for certification.

The training covers: soils and fertilizers, basic botany, composting, water and irrigation, trees and small fruits, vegetables, ornamentals, pesticides, insects and diseases, organic gardening, lawns, and more.

In addition to volunteer projects, Master Gardeners may participate in social activities and events like plant swaps and potluck dinners and the State Master Gardener Conference. Educational programs and field trips are also available for Master Gardeners.

If you have the time and the desire to volunteer for your community in an area you enjoy, **complete and return the attached application** to the Garland County Extension Service. This application can be completed and returned to us at any time, but it must be in our office no later than **November 30**, which is the deadline. You may mail it to the Cooperative Extension Office at 236 Woodbine, Hot Springs, AR 71901, fax it to 501-623-5756 (Attn: Allen Bates), or bring it by the Cooperative Extension office (same address as above) located at the corner of Hazel and Woodbine. All applications received will be held at our office and after the application deadline has passed, you will be contacted in order to set up an interview time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allen Bates".

Allen Bates
County Extension Agent –
Agriculture

AB/mb

MASTER GARDENER APPLICATION

In order to become a Master Gardener you must complete a 40-hour training program offered by the U of A Cooperative Extension Service of Garland County. In exchange for the training, you **must** volunteer at least 40 hours of your time to the Master Gardener Program within the next year. Upon satisfactory completion of the training and end-of-course examination, you will become a certified MASTER GARDENER. Please complete the following:

Phone # (home) _____ (cell) _____ Date _____

E-Mail Address (***please print legibly***) _____

PrintedName _____ Signature _____

Address/City/State/Zip _____

Please provide us with the following information:

1. Can you spend a week (40 hours) to attend an intensive, practical training program? Yes No
2. Do you look forward to sharing your knowledge with people in the community? Yes No
3. Do you have the time to commit to the training **as well as** the required volunteer service Yes No

If you answered **yes** to all of the above questions, please proceed below:

Years of gardening experience _____ Briefly tell us about your gardening experience and any related training:

Specialties or hobbies (e.g. flowers, herbs, ornamentals, etc.)

Experiences working with community, youth, senior citizens, schools, etc.

List any affiliations you may have with Garden Clubs/Plant Societies, etc: _____

How did you learn of the Master Gardener Program?

Briefly tell us why you want to become a Master Gardener?

**RETURN THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:
Reach us no later than November 30th**

Cooperative Extension Service
236 Woodbine St.
Hot Springs, AR 71901

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UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS MASTER GARDENER POLICIES

The Master Gardener program is offered by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and is designed to increase the availability of horticultural information and improve the quality of life with horticultural projects. Goals are implemented through the training and employment of local volunteers. Master Gardeners assist the Extension Service by implementing community projects, answering phone requests, running plant clinics, etc.

The title "Master Gardener" is to be used only by individuals who have attended the 40 hours of Master Gardener training and passed an examination given by the local Extension agent. A trainee must attend the prescribed 40 hours of instruction and volunteer 40 hours of work to the Extension service within one year of the training. The title is valid only when the volunteer is participating in the Arkansas Master Gardener program. When individuals cease active participation, their designation as Master Gardener becomes void.

Master Gardeners must be willing to maintain a written record of his or her volunteer activities, and provide this information to their local county agent.

Arkansas Master Gardeners will not use the title "Master Gardener" at a place of business or for commercial publicity, unless it is while participating in a Master Gardener sponsored event. Having association with commercial products or giving implied University of Arkansas endorsements of products or businesses is improper.

Master Gardeners are not to accept money for speaking before groups as a Master Gardener. Master Gardeners may accept contributions for the Master Gardener fund in their county. Gifts can be accepted.

When making recommendations which include the use of chemicals, Arkansas Master Gardeners are to follow the current published University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service recommendations. Use of other pesticide recommendations is not approved. Cultural problems that are not specifically covered by Extension recommendations may be handled by suggesting non-chemical treatments, which an experienced Master Gardener considers appropriate. Questions concerning **commercial production** of crops are to be referred to the County Agent.

Master Gardeners who wish to continue as a Master Gardener after the first year must re-certify. The requirements for recertification are as follows: completion of the initial payback in volunteer activities; accumulation of 20 hours of further educational activities and an additional 20 hours of work each consecutive year.

When representing the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service as a Master Gardener, discrimination of any kind is not acceptable. Please indicate your acceptance of these terms by signing and dating in the space provided below. After detaching the Memorandum of Agreement, please send it along with your completed application form.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

I have read the above policies regarding my service as a Master Gardener volunteer, and do hereby agree to provide 40 hours of service to the Arkansas Master Gardener program in return for the training provided by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

Signature of Applicant _____

Dated: _____

County Agent Acknowledgement _____