

# What is the Hancock County MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM?

The Hancock County Master Gardener Program is "Helping Others Grow." The program provides gardeners with intensive education in horticultural principles. The instruction is provided without charge; however, there is a fee for supplies which become your personal reference collection. Participants who successfully complete the program and, thereafter, donate an equal number of volunteer hours in community gardening services are certified as **Master Gardeners**. Yearly donation of time is expected to maintain certification. In Hancock County Lais McCartney, who facilitates the course and assists in the instruction of some sessions, coordinates the program.

## Why Should You Become a Master Gardener?

You'll always have the opportunity to grow in several ways when you become a Master Gardener. After satisfying the requirements for volunteer activity, the ways you grow and how far you go are up to you!

- The training sessions will increase your knowledge of a wide array of gardening subjects.
- This increased knowledge will give you the skills and confidence to teach others in your community what you know about gardening.
- Sharing your gardening knowledge with your neighbors will give you a great way to become more involved in improving the quality of life in your community.

And you'll be able, if you wish, to use the training and experience in leadership you've gotten through your activities in the Master Gardener Program as a springboard to other forms of community leadership.

## What Training Will You Get?

If you are accepted into the Master Gardener Program, you will receive training in the following areas:

Soil Science	Plant Nutrition
Plant Propagation	Plant Science
Identification and Control of Insect Pests	Identification and Control of Plant Diseases
Sprayer Calibration	Pesticide Safety
Flowers	Landscaping
Vegetable Gardening	Flower Gardening
Planting & Pruning	Lawn Care

## What Will it Cost You to Become an Extension Master Gardener?

Purdue University staff and other speakers provide instruction free of charge. Your only expense will be a fee for references, publications and supplies, which will become a part of your personal reference collection. Currently, the cost is \$125 per person. This price is subject to change.

## What Do You Get?

Each participant or household gets their own set of horticulture related publications and a binder to hold them as well as a copy of the (600 page) *Master Gardener Manual*. In addition, there are numerous handouts provided in class as well as picture sets and materials from Purdue University and other universities.

## What are the Requirements of the Master Gardener Program?

When you've been accepted into a training program, you will need to attend a brief orientation session followed by the series of 12 classes once per week. After completing the training, you will be examined over the material covered and must receive a score of 70% to become a Master Gardener Intern.

- You must then do 40 hours of community volunteer service to your community. This can consist of such services as answering garden questions, conducting garden schools, working on community beautification projects, or assisting in other public education-related activities. Credit for Master Gardener activities are limited to those associated with public facilities only or for public not-for-profit organizations. Homeowner association projects do not qualify. **Volunteer hours must have an educational component included to qualify.** All volunteer hours must be approved by the Master Gardener Coordinator.
- When you have passed your exam and completed your volunteer commitment, you will be certified as a Purdue Extension Master Gardener by Purdue University. For more information, contact *Lais McCartney* on upcoming programs and dates. Payment is accepted by check or cash. Sorry, but we are not able to accept credit cards at this time. Payment is required to reserve a place in the class. Spots will not be held without pre-payment. We will accept an application and then notify you when the next class is scheduled.

### Background Checks... Why?

- As a Master Gardener, you will be representing Purdue University to your community. In this capacity, you fall under Purdue's behavioral expectations guidelines. Additionally, Purdue could possibly be held liable for your actions as a Master Gardener. Therefore, background checks are required. Please call our office if you have any questions.

For more information, contact

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