

# Georgia MASTER GARDENER

## Volunteers Are:

**M**otivated to share their knowledge and expertise.

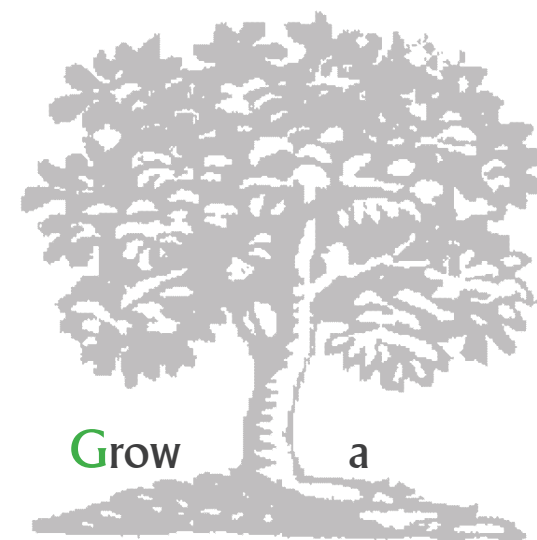
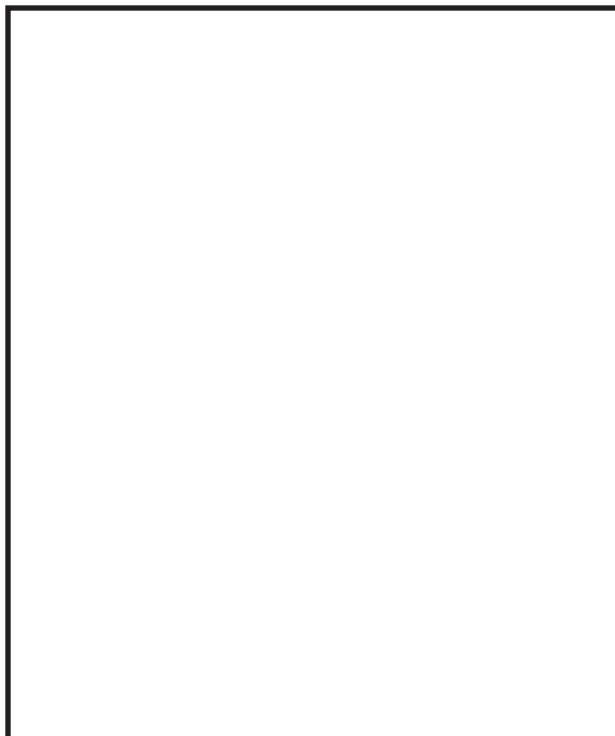
**A**ccessible to other Master Gardeners, Extension professionals, and the public.

**S**ervice-oriented to enhance their communities and the environment.

**T**rained by Cooperative Extension in current horticultural practices.

**E**xcited about meeting other people who enjoy gardening.

**R**esearch ambassadors who provide cutting-edge horticultural information to consumers.



**Better Community**  
with the  
**Georgia**  
**Master Gardener**  
**Program**

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Service work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914 in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture.

The University of Georgia and Ft. Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating.

The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability.

An Equal opportunity/affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force.

The Georgia **Master Gardener** Program is a volunteer education program offered through county offices of The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. Through this program, individuals are trained and certified in horticulture and related areas to assist their County Extension Agent. These volunteers help others through horticultural projects that benefit the community.

Master Gardeners bring the latest horticultural information and practices from the world of research to their communities' landscapes and gardens.

The concept of Master Gardener volunteer training began more than 25 years ago. Overwhelmed by requests for gardening information, Seattle Extension agents recruited home gardeners. In exchange for specialized training in horticulture, these gardeners made a commitment to spend time doing volunteer outreach work.

The Georgia Master Gardener training program **provides more than 40 hours of classroom and hands-on instruction** in horticulture and related areas. The classes provide home gardeners with the information they need to become skilled Master Gardeners.

**Core Classes** in the training program include:

- Basic Botany
- Soils and Plant Nutrition
- Basic Pathology
- Plant Physiology
- Basic Entomology
- Weed ID and Control
- Non-Chemical Pest Control
- Annuals and Perennials
- Small and Tree Fruit Culture
- Selecting Woody Ornamentals
- Insects and Disease of Woody Ornamentals
- Planting and Maintaining of Ornamentals
- Turf Selection and Maintenance
- Insects and Diseases of Turf
- Composting, Grasscycling and Mulching
- Vegetable Gardening
- Insects, Disease, Weeds and Nematodes of Vegetables

Some **Electives** are:

- Gardening with Kids
- Butterfly Gardening
- Landscape Design
- Wildflowers and Ornamental Grasses

Courses are taught by Specialists and Extension agents from the Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, as well as local horticulturists and veteran Master Gardeners.

In exchange for the training, participants are obligated to return **50 hours of volunteer service** within the first year on projects that benefit their communities through their local Cooperative Extension office. Most Master Gardeners continue to volunteer their time even after many years of service. These projects can range from working on community horticultural projects, to helping answer questions through the county Extension office, to conducting garden club programs. Other exciting projects include Junior Master Gardener<sub>sm</sub> programs and vegetable gardens for the hungry.

Master Gardener training programs are most often taught during a 10 to 12 week period in the fall or winter. A minimal registration fee, which varies from county to county, is charged to cover the cost of the training manual and supplies.

To find out if your county has a Master Gardener volunteer program, contact your local county Extension office. To locate your University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Office.



1-800-Ask-UGA-1  
[www.ugaextension.com](http://www.ugaextension.com)