

How do I become a certified Master Gardener?

Completing the initial training and scoring at least 70% on an open-book exam entitles participants to become a Master Gardener Intern. Completion of 40 hours volunteer service by a Master Gardener Intern makes them a fully fledged Certified Nebraska Master Gardener.

Master Gardeners are representatives of the UNL Extension. In all volunteer work related to the program, Master Gardeners must follow recommendations of UNL Extension. The title "Master Gardener" can be used by volunteers only when they are engaged in activities as representatives of the University of Nebraska. The title and certification may be used on employment applications, but not once on the job.

How does the Master Gardener Program benefit me?

Through the Master Gardener training sessions and workshops, you'll become a more knowledgeable gardener and will have the opportunity to share this knowledge with your community. You will have access to a wealth of information that can make you a better gardener and you will also meet lots of interesting people who share your love of gardening.

In addition to giving volunteer service to your community, you will have the opportunity to meet people from across the country and in Canada. An annual Nebraska Master Gardener Conference is generally held in June and an International Master Gardener Conference is held during odd years.



University of Nebraska—Lincoln Extension

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Extension is a division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cooperating with the counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

University of Nebraska—Lincoln Extension

Helping People Put Knowledge to Work

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM



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Do you have an interest in plants and time to share?

What Is a Master Gardener?

Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who assist University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Extension Educators provide horticultural information to Nebraskans. The Master Gardener Program is a national program that started in Washington State in 1972. Master Gardeners provide only research-based information, giving the public accurate and tested answers to their questions.

Is Master Gardening for You?

Ask yourself these questions:

- Do I want to learn more about the culture and maintenance of many types of plants?
- Am I eager to participate in a practical and intensive training program?
- Do I look forward to sharing my knowledge with people in my community?
- Do I have enough time to attend the training and to complete 40 hours of volunteer work?

When do training classes for new Master Gardeners begin?

In 2017 training classes will be held at the UNL Extension- Dodge County Office beginning in February. If accepted into the Master Gardener Program, you will be eligible to attend Master Gardener Training.

What subjects will be covered during training?

The program covers topics in botany, soils, fertilizers, lawn care, vegetable gardening, annual and perennial flowers, trees and shrubs,

water gardening, insect, disease and weed control. Classes are taught by University of Nebraska Extension staff, using both distance technology and live speakers.

What is the cost of Master Gardener training?

The cost to attend the basic 40 hours of training is \$150.00, which includes the Master Gardener handbook and turfgrass management guide.

What type of volunteer activities can I choose to participate in?

In exchange for training, participants are required to volunteer one hour of service for each hour of training received, but many people give even more.

Many volunteer projects are available and every gardener is welcome; no matter how "green" you are- we'll find a volunteer activity to suit you!

What is required after the first year?

Master Gardeners must re-certify annually to remain active in the program. Re-certification consists of completing 10 additional hours of classroom training, and completing 20 or more hours of volunteer service.

Registration due by January 31, 2017

**If interested in becoming a
Master Gardener contact:**

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Registration due by January 31, 2017

Required Classes

All run from 9 am to 4 pm and take place at the Dodge County Extension Office. Saturday dates are:

**February 18, 2017
March 4, 2017
March 18, 2017
April 1, 2017**

In addition:

New Master Gardeners also need to participate in 6 evening classes. These can be done at any participating extension office, and are scheduled for either Tuesday or Thursday evenings, depending on the county. **Dodge County will be on Thursdays in 2017.**

Dates for these are:

**February 9, 2017
February 16, 2017
February 23, 2017
March 2, 2017
March 9, 2017
March 16, 2017**

All Thursday classes will be held at the Dodge County Extension office, and run from **6 pm - 8:30 pm.**