Do you enjoy working in your garden and talking with friends about your newest plant acquisition? Do your friends ask you for advice on their lawns, vegetables and flowers? Would you like to learn more about the art and science of horticulture? Then you should consider becoming a Master Gardener. You have all the qualifications!

**Who are Master Gardeners?**
They are people who love plants, and enjoy sharing their knowledge with others. At Nebraska Extension, we teach adults and youth in many different settings, from the county fair, to classrooms, and demonstration landscapes, and our Extension Master Gardeners help us do that.

After training, Master Gardeners assist Extension staff providing clientele with information by answering phone and walk-in questions, teaching youth or adult programs, and working in demonstration landscapes. The Extension Master Gardener program’s goal is to provide Nebraskans with the knowledge they need to create and maintain beautiful, healthy, sustainable landscapes, while conserving water, and protecting themselves and the natural environment from exposure to improperly applied or excessive amounts of pesticides and fertilizers.

**Training**
Master Gardener interns learn about a wide range of horticulture topics including soils, fertilizers, botany, plant selection, plant diseases, insects and weed control. Forty hours of classroom instruction gives them a good foundation in general horticulture, plus basic insect and disease control. After training, Master Gardener interns give back 40 hours of volunteer service in their community through a variety of activities.

Why get involved in the Extension Master Gardener program? First, because you love gardening. Each Master Gardener has their own special area of interest; a particular type of gardening or type of plant that they love to grow, whether it is roses, herbs, water plants, wildflowers, fruit trees or vegetables. Through the program, Master Gardener interns meet many great people who share their love of gardening and are always happy to share their knowledge. And as a volunteer Master Gardeners make a contribution to their community, while creating beautiful, sustainable greenspaces.

**How To Get Started**
Complete and submit an application. Two Master Gardener programs are available for residents of Lancaster county and surrounding areas.

**Evening training classes** - 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Classes are held from early February through May, at Kiern Hall on UNL’s East Campus, 33rd & Holdrege. Complete an application on-line at http://MasterGardener.unl.edu, click on “Become a Master Gardener.” Or contact Teri James, email: tjames2@unl.edu, (402) 472-8973. Program cost is $190.00 per person.

**Weekday training classes** - 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Classes are held from mid-February through early April, at the Lancaster County Extension Office, 444 Cherrycreek Road. Complete an application on-line at http://go.unl.edu/mgapplication, or contact Mary Jane Frogge for more information. Email: mfrogge2@unl.edu, (402) 441-7180. Program cost is $190.00 per person. Application deadline is January 22nd.

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