



Central Nebraska Extension Master Gardeners

What is an Extension Master Gardener?

Extension Master Gardeners are people who love plants, gardening, landscaping, and teaching others. To earn a title of Extension Master Gardener, individuals enroll in the program and receive 40 hours of education from University of Nebraska—Lincoln faculty, then volunteer 40 hours of gardening and horticulture related work. There is a fee which covers the educational resources.

No qualifications or prior knowledge about horticulture is needed for the class. The only requirement is a desire to learn and share a love of gardening and a commitment to teach others about horticulture.

Nebraska Extension in Hall County
3180 W Hwy. 34
Grand Island, NE 68801
Return Service Requested

Volunteering

Volunteer hours can be completed through various activities that could include: planting and maintaining demonstration gardens, collecting data on research projects, helping with county and State Fair activities, speaking to community groups, leading garden tours, collecting plant samples, answering phone questions, teaching youth programs, or whatever sparks your interest and utilizes your talents.

Education

Educational topics will cover a wide range of horticultural issues. Topics that have been covered during previous educational sessions include: native plants for water conservation, an in-depth look at fertilizers, turfgrass and related insects, beneficial pollinating insects, vegetable garden pests, tree and shrub pruning, pesticide safety and non-chemical pest control techniques, and small fruits and tree fruit basics. The content of the topics is focused on the home gardener, but those employed in the green industry will also benefit from the program.

History of Nebraska Master Gardeners

The Nebraska Master Gardener program is a horticulture related volunteer training program based in many counties throughout the state.

The program has been part of University of Nebraska- Lincoln Extension since 1976. Volunteers are trained by UNL Extension faculty and staff and contribute volunteer time working with their local Extension office to provide horticulture-related information to their community.

What Is Required of Master Gardeners?

Participants are required to complete 40 hours of education and 40 hours of volunteer service during the initial year of their involvement in the program, as well as pass a written exam.

To retain the Master Gardener title, volunteers annually attend 10 hours of continuing education classes and programs of their choice and give back 20 hours of volunteer time to their communities and Master Gardener projects.

What's the Cost & What's Included?

New Extension Master Gardeners - There is a fee of **\$175*** for new Master Gardeners. With that fee the Master Gardeners receive a large resource notebook, an integrated turfgrass management book, a short-sleeved t-shirt, and a name tag. The fee will also help fund handout materials, speaker travel expenses, room rental, and other costs associated with the program.

Returning Extension Master Gardeners - There is a fee of **\$20** for returning Master Gardeners.

ProHort - There is a fee of **\$325*** for Green Industry participants. With that fee the ProHort participants receive a large resource notebook, an integrated turfgrass management book and 40 hours of education.

*Costs are approximate



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 educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska—Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Extension Master Gardener Education

For 2021 EMG training is going online!!

Classwork will be available online.

Weekly Zoom check-in and discussions
Tuesday nights 6:30 pm CST

Topics covered:

January 5	EMG Orientation
January 12	Growing Environments
January 19	Morphology
January 26	Introduction to Soils
February 2	Integrated Pest Management & Entomology
February 9	Plant Pathology
February 16	Vegetable Gardening
February 23	Herbaceous Plant Selection
March 2	Planting Combinations
March 9	Wildlife in Landscapes
March 16	Trees Selection and Management
March 23	Landscape Design
March 30	Landscape Management
April 6	Diagnosing Landscape Problems
April 13	Turf/ Water Conservation

For More Information:

Please contact Elizabeth Exstrom at the Nebraska Extension Office in Hall County at 308-385-5088 or eexstrom2@unl.edu