

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.

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



Master Gardener

Central Nebraska Extension Master Gardeners Volunteers

What is an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer?

Extension Master Gardener

Volunteers are people who love plants, gardening, landscaping, and teaching others. To earn a title of Extension Master Gardener Volunteer, 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.

History of Nebraska Extension Master Gardener Volunteers

The Nebraska Master Gardener Volunteer 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 Nebraska 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 Extension Master Gardeners Volunteers?

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 Extension Master Gardener Volunteer 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 **\$225*** for new Extension Master Gardeners Volunteers (EMGV). With that fee the EMGVs receive access to an online book format called TopHat, 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.
*partial financial assistance is available

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

ProHort - There is a fee of **\$450*** for Green Industry participants. With that fee the ProHort participants receive access to the TopHat format, an integrated turfgrass management book and 40 hours of education.



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 Volunteer Education Options

TopHat

All new Extension Master Gardener Volunteers will receive access to an online book format called TopHat. Imbedded in the book are videos, quizzes, and much more that can be completed and reviewed at your own pace.

*Returning EMGVs can have access to this format for \$35.

Zoom Classes

Evening Zoom classes will run 6:30-8:00 pm Tuesday evenings February 6- March 12, 2024.

In Person Classes

Experts will teach on a wide range of topics related to the EMGV curriculum. Dates and times are March 4, 6, 8, 11, & 13 2024
9:00 am-noon & 1:00-4:00 pm

*schedules are subject to change

For More Information:

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

Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made a week before the start of class with Elizabeth Exstrom.