

Meetings held at:  
Nebraska Extension in Madison County  
1305 South 13th Street  
Norfolk NE 68701  
402-370-4040

[www.madison.unl.edu](http://www.madison.unl.edu)

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/madison/northeast-nebraska-master-gardener-home/>

## 2023 Meeting Dates

March 11  
April 8  
May 20  
September 9  
October 14  
November 11  
December 9



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# Northeast Nebraska Master Gardener Program—2023

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***Master Gardeners are people who love plants, gardening, landscaping, and teaching others.***

**Northeast Nebraska Master Gardener Coordinators:**

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## What is a Master Gardener?

Master Gardeners are people who love plants, gardening, landscaping, and teaching others. To earn the title of Master Gardener, individuals enroll in the program and receive 40 hours of training from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; then volunteer 40 hours of gardening and horticulture related work. There is an initial training fee of \$180 which covers the training, t-shirt and name tag.

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

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

The Master Gardener program has been affiliated with the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln since 1976.

## Who are the Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners?

The Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners were organized in 1989. They continue to develop and expand the program working with their County Extension offices assisting with horticulture programs. Membership consists of individuals from 15 area counties.

## How is the local program run?

The Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners sponsor monthly educational speakers at meetings held on the second Saturday of each month (September through April and the May meeting will be the third Saturday) in Norfolk. Tours and special events are held during the year.

## What does it cost?

Northeast Nebraska Master Gardener annual dues are \$20 per person per year. A monthly email newsletter includes meeting dates, class schedule, committee projects and activities. There is also the one-time fee of \$180 for new volunteers.

## Scholarships

The Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners donate \$1,000.00 each year to NECC for a horticulture scholarship.

## What are some of the projects and activities?

- The Northeast Nebraska Plant Fair and Market held early spring is the major volunteer event .
- Gardening column for the Norfolk Daily News.
- Individual Master Gardeners support horticulture through presentations to clubs, community projects, churches, county fairs, schools, maintain gardens in their communities, and assist 4-Hers with horticulture projects.
- Service & training hours are recognized for all members.

## Plant Fair & Market

Look for us April 28/29, 2023  
held at the Northeast  
Community College, Chuck  
Pohlman Ag Complex,  
Norfolk, NE

### Plant Fair features include:

- \* **Educational Speakers!** Visit website below for names, topics, and times!
- \* **Free Admission!**
- \* **Perennials and annuals** for sale!
- \* **Great Vendors** offering nursery, garden, & home décor plus jewelry, kitchen tools, skin care, crafts, quilts, collectables, candles, toys, and gourmet foods!
- \* **Door Prizes** drawn hourly!
- \* **Delivery assistance** to your vehicle!
- \* **Plant Sitter Area:** Place to keep your purchases until you have completed shopping and listening to speakers!
- \* **Children's Garden: Kids Make & Take** ~ Special activities for children!
- \* **Ask The Master Gardener** booth will feature a Master Gardener member on hand to answer your gardening questions!
- \* **Locally grown houseplants** for sale, grown by Master Gardener members!
- \* **Lunch Stand** provided by Master Gardeners!
- \* **Youth Horticulture ID Contest:** Youth ages 8-18 years old are encouraged to register!

More information at: 402-370-4040 or  
<http://madison.unl.edu/theplantfair>



## Training

When accepted into the Extension Master Gardener volunteer program, you then attend Master Gardener training. University of Nebraska Extension staff and specialists teach most of the classes. The program offers up to 40 hours of training that covers topics in lawn care, trees and shrubs, insects, plant diseases, vegetable and fruit gardening, composting, and landscape ornamentals. The annual training is held in February and March in most counties.

## Certification

After receiving 40 hours of training and completing 40 hours of volunteer service, one becomes a Certified Extension Master Gardener. Volunteers can recertify each year by completing at least 10 hours of training and 20 hours of volunteer service.

## Application Process

To apply to the Madison County Area Master Gardener Program, fill out the form provided. You will be mailed an application form to complete and return by January. An orientation/interview with the coordinator will be arranged with you. Madison County training begins in February and extends into March. Other education opportunities during the year are available.



## Master Gardener Educational & Recertification Classes Held in February & March

Those interested in attending need to contact the Nebraska Extension office in Madison County—402-370-4040.

Those wishing to become Master Gardeners will need to pay a onetime initial training fee of \$180.

## SAVE THE DATES—

**All classes are Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 pm via Zoom.**

### **WINTER:**

**Feb. 7** - Bringing Back Pollinators: Providing Nesting and Overwintering Habitat with Jennifer Hopwood, Senior Pollinator Conservation Specialist, Xerces Society

**Feb. 14** - Strawberries and Other Small Fruit, John Porter, UNL Extension Educator

**Feb. 21** - Invasive Plants and Insects in Nebraska, Allison Zach – Invasive Species Coordinator & Nicole Stoner, UNL Extension Educator

**Feb. 28** – Evergreen Problems, Kelly Feehan, UNL Extension Educator

**March 7** – Seed Saving, David Lott, UNL Extension Educator

**March 14** - Sedges for Home Landscapes, Bob Henrickson, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Horticulture Program Coordinator

### **FALL:**

**Sept. 19** – Photoperiodic Plants: Poinsettias and More, Scott Evans, Nebraska Extension Associate

**Oct. 3** – Fall Perennial Weed Control – TBA

**Oct. 17** – Composting, Sarah Browning, UNL Extension Educator

These and past years trainings are archived and available for viewing online. Contact Wayne Ohnesorg, Nebraska Extension Educator at 402-370-4040 for more details.

Yes, I am interested in the Madison County Area Master Gardener Program.

Please add me to your list and send me an application form for the next training program. Thank you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed form to: Nebraska Extension in Madison County  
Master Gardener Program  
1305 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Norfolk, NE 68701