

Sonoma County Master Gardener Application for Membership

**Applications for the 2010 Training Class must be received
by 5:00 p.m., September 30, 2009**

If you love to garden, to learn about gardening, and to share your knowledge with others, the Sonoma County Master Gardeners offer you the opportunity to learn and to use your knowledge of gardening to serve the community.

The Master Gardener program is a volunteer organization that provides education services to gardeners (see other side for more information about the program). Each trainee must:

- Have a commitment to community service in Sonoma County
- Be willing to volunteer as an agent of the University of California Cooperative Extension
- Be fingerprinted and pass a Department of Justice background investigation before being accepted into the program
- Attend training classes on Monday and Wednesday, usually from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (some starting at 9:00 a.m.) from mid-January through mid-April. Classes may be held on holidays, such as President's Day.
- Attend five hours of training at the Information Desk. This training is individually scheduled during February and March and is in addition to the training classes above
- As an intern, within the first year after completing the training class, volunteer at least 60 hours on approved Master Gardener activities, plus at least 12 hours on approved continuing education, a minimum of 72 hours total. Interns are given some choice on the activities they volunteer for, but a certain number of hours on the Information Desk and selected other projects are required.
- Each year after the intern year, volunteer at least 25 hours per year on approved Master Gardener volunteer activities, plus complete at least 12 hours of approved continuing education

The fee for the classes is \$260. Fee will be collected after your acceptance as a trainee. Please do not enclose the fee with your application. Financial assistance is available. If you are accepted, you will be informed about how to apply for assistance.

If you want to apply for the Master Gardener Training Class, please complete the attached application form. Keep this cover page for reference and return the application to:

Master Gardener Applications
University of California Cooperative Extension
133 Aviation Blvd. Suite 109
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

To be considered for acceptance you must attend the mandatory orientation meeting on Thursday, October 8, 2009, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the University of California Cooperative Extension (address above). At this time, the Master Gardener organization and requirements will be fully explained and your interview will be scheduled on one of these dates: October 19 through October 23. Interviews will be held at the Cooperative Extension office. Selection of members for the new training class will take place by late October, and you will be notified of the results. If you have questions about the required orientation meeting, please call the Master Gardener Coordinator at 565-2305. You will receive a postcard acknowledging receipt of your application.

If you have an e-mail address and you check your e-mail regularly, we will appreciate your providing the address in the appropriate place on the application, to make it easier for us to communicate with you.

What is the Master Gardener Program?

Master Gardeners are volunteers trained and certified by the University of California Cooperative Extension in the areas of gardening and horticulture. Since 1981 they have been extending information and providing technical assistance to gardeners in Sonoma County.

What training is given to Master Gardeners?

Master Gardener trainees attend a training program comprising approximately one hundred hours of instruction in plant science and horticulture covering such topics as soils, fertilizers, irrigation, weeds, diseases, insects and other pests, fruit and landscape trees, vegetables, xeriscaping, and more. Each trainee receives The California Master Gardener Handbook as well as other UCCE publications.

Classes are taught by experts in their fields. They include Cooperative Extension Advisors and specialists from the University of California at Berkeley and Davis, local community college faculty, and other knowledgeable resource people.

Who becomes a Master Gardener?

Master Gardeners are people of all ages and from all walks of life. They include business men and women, professionals, educators, retirees, homemakers, and students — all with some experience and knowledge of plants and gardening. Master Gardeners must be enthusiastic, willing to learn and help others, and must be able to communicate with diverse groups of people.

What is the Master Gardener's commitment to the program?

After completing the training and passing a written exam, the new Master Gardener Interns are required to complete a minimum of sixty hours of volunteer service and twelve hours of continuing education within the next twelve months. (Attending the monthly meetings count towards continuing education hours, as does attending Master Gardener workshops, JC classes, and other classes and seminars on gardening). Master Gardeners are selected on the basis of their ability to fulfill this commitment. In order to retain the title Master Gardener in ensuing years, Master Gardeners must complete twelve hours of continuing education per year and perform twenty-five hours of volunteer service per year. Limited scholarship assistance is available.

What kind of volunteer work does a Master Gardener do?

Master Gardeners staff an information desk in the County Extension office where they answer

questions, diagnose plant problems, and give horticultural assistance to gardeners. Information is also dispersed at Farmers Markets, fairs, and through talks and demonstrations.

How can one obtain information from a Master Gardener?

Telephone the Sonoma County Cooperative Extension office to ask a Master Gardener questions about plants and gardening in Sonoma County—707-565-2608. Samples of insects, weeds, and diseased plants may be taken to the office for diagnosis. Master Gardeners are available to give talks for garden clubs, senior citizen groups, elementary schools, and other community organizations. Visit our website at www.sonomamastergardeners.org

What is Cooperative Extension?

The University of California Cooperative Extension is part of a nationwide program established by an Act of Congress in 1914 as part of the Land Grant University in every state. Three levels of government participate in funding Cooperative Extension programs: federal, through USDA, provides a portion of the budget; state, through the universities, pays for statewide programs; and county, which provides housing and operating expenses for local Cooperative Extension offices. The University of California Cooperative Extension works in cooperation with federal and county governments to provide local educational programs throughout California.

The mission of the University of California Cooperative Extension is to develop, extend, and bring about the use of research-based knowledge to improve specific practices and technologies. In addition, Cooperative Extension makes practical information generally available. Cooperative Extension has research support and organizational capacity in agriculture and natural resources, in family and consumer science, in community resource development, and in youth development.

University of California county staff (Advisors) are housed in county Cooperative Extension offices in nearly every county in California. County Advisors extend knowledge, conduct field research, and provide leadership in selected Cooperative Extension program areas. Highly trained subject matter specialists, housed on University campuses and in regional offices, conduct applied research, supply information for dissemination by county staff, and provide leadership for state-wide programs.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The University of California prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy (including childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or status as a covered veteran (covered veterans are special disabled veterans, recently separated veterans, Vietnam era veterans, or any other veterans who served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized) in any of its programs or activities. University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws. Inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the Affirmative Action/Staff Personnel Services Director, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 300 Lakeside Drive, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612-3550, (510) 987-0096.

SONOMA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER APPLICATION

Please print or type. Use the name you would like to be called by within the Master Gardener organization:

Name _____

Home Address _____
(required) Number and Street City Zip

Mailing Address _____
(if not same as above) P.O. Box or Number and Street City Zip

Home phone _____ Work phone _____ E-mail address _____

1. How long have you been gardening? _____ What gardening experience do you have? _____

2. List areas of special interest related to gardening. _____

3. List garden group affiliations, if any _____

4. What is your educational background? What were your fields of study? _____

5. What is your current/past employment? _____

Do you expect to be employed in the next year? _____ How many hours per week? _____

6. Briefly summarize your work experience. _____

7. Briefly summarize your volunteer experience. _____

8. Why do you want to be a Master Gardener? _____

I understand that, if accepted, I will not become a certified Master Gardener until I satisfactorily complete the training course, score at least 70% on the examinations, and fulfill the intern requirements: 60 hours on approved Master Gardener activities and 12 hours of continuing education. To remain in the Master Gardener program each year I must complete 25 hours of volunteer service and 12 hours of continuing education. I must submit monthly records of my volunteer hours. I also understand that there is training fee of \$260. I am committed to community service in Sonoma County and am willing to act as an agent of the University of California Cooperative Extension. I agree to comply with the requirements delineated in the UCCE Master Gardener Program Administrative Handbook.

Signature _____ Date _____

APPLICANTS DO NOT WRITE ON THIS SIDE - FOR SELECTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Write the date and your name(s) on the lines below. Note skills and make comments below. Choose one score:
1 = excellent, 2 = good, 3 = do not accept. The interview team must agree on a single score (no halves).

Interview Date: _____ Interviewed by: _____

Interview Score: _____

Skills:

Comments: