



Learn it Grow it Teach it



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Grow it
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How do I get involved?

You can become a Master Gardener if you are interested in learning about plants and gardening, attend the training program, provide 40 hours of volunteer service, and are willing to help others.



www.mastergardener.iastate.edu

Updated by Jennifer Bousselot, master gardener coordinator. Prepared originally by James Romer, former master gardener coordinator.

...and justice for all
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What is a Master Gardener?



They are trained volunteers who share a love of gardening, an enthusiasm for learning, and a commitment to helping others. Perhaps you've met a Master Gardener working at a community garden, teaching a workshop, or answering questions at your extension county office.



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The Master Gardener Program has not only allowed me endless opportunities to expand and enhance my horticultural knowledge and expertise, but it has given me rewarding opportunities as a volunteer to assist the public with issues important to them. - Joanne

The Master Gardener Program has been one of the best learning experiences in my lifetime of 60-plus years. ... Being able to help other people with their questions and problems has made me feel I am returning tenfold of what I know and have learned from the Master Gardener Program. - Robert

The Linn County Master Gardeners is by far the most satisfying volunteer organization in which I have participated. The education was superb, the programs are meaningful, the Extension staff is supportive, and my peers are a joy. Every day I am thankful to share my knowledge and love of gardening with my community through the Master Gardeners. - Zora

Master Gardening opened up a whole new world to me. Not only did I expand my knowledge of plants and their environment, but I also gained a huge family of friends. - Mickey



What kind of training is offered?

Training makes all the difference. Since 1979 more than 10,000 Iowans have received Master Gardener training from Iowa State University Extension. The 40-hour program provides research-based information about lawn care, landscape trees and shrubs, herbaceous ornamentals, insects, plant diseases, soils, plant nutrition, vegetables, fruits, houseplants, home landscape design, and more. Training sessions are offered each year from September through March. Preregistration is required. Specific information about locations, dates, and times is available from your ISU Extension county office. The registration fee covers the cost of all materials.

How do I fulfill my 40 hours of volunteer service?



The various projects I did to complete my 40 hours enabled me to meet a lot of new friends and also learn from hands-on experience many more things about gardening than I might have from reading a book. - Sara

- Answer telephone or email questions about gardening
- Staff plant clinics or displays in shopping malls or community centers
- Speak to local organizations
- Conduct workshops for youth and adults
- Help with 4-H horticulture projects and county fairs
- Design and maintain educational garden plots at schools, parks, and community centers
- Write newspaper articles

When do I become a Master Gardener?

Recognition marks completion. By completing the training sessions, you become a Master Gardener Intern. Full recognition as a Master Gardener is granted after you complete 40 hours of volunteer service. Your ISU Extension county office will help you find ways to fulfill this requirement. In addition, several counties have Master Gardener Associations. These groups meet on a regular basis to plan projects, hear speakers, tour gardens, share information, and have fun.

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