

► ISU Polk County Extension Master Gardener Certification Requirements

1. All ISU Polk County Master Gardeners are required to be certified each year. Annual certification records will be logged according to the **calendar year**. The closing date for submitting logs of volunteer service and continuing education is **December 15**. Hours earned the previous calendar year will not be recorded. Hours submitted after the December 15 deadline will not be accepted. All volunteer logs will be submitted to the Master Gardener recorder.
2. A summary of hours earned-to-date can be requested by each Master Gardener any time.
3. ISU Polk County Master Gardeners will be recognized in one of three categories: Certified Master Gardener, Non-Certified Master Gardener, Master Gardener Intern.

Certified Master Gardener Any person who, after completing a Master Gardener Internship, fulfills the “6/6” annual requirement for hours earned in each of two categories: Volunteer Service and Continuing Education. The hours required in each category are:

Volunteer Service -- Six hours working on recognized Master Gardener projects, and
Continuing Education -- Six hours attending Master Gardener accredited courses.

For certification purposes, hours are to be earned during the calendar year and submitted to the MG recorder by December 31. Certification status is then current for the calendar year following the December 31 deadline.

Non-Certified Master Gardener Any previously Certified Master Gardener who has failed to complete requirements for certification during the calendar year will move to a Non-Certified status for a maximum of two years. The incomplete hours can be in the Volunteer Service category, the Continuing Education category, or both.

To become Certified, a Non-Certified Master Gardener must meet a “12/12” requirement in the calendar year following the year in which the 6/6 credit hour requirement was not met. The 12/12 requirement includes 12 Volunteer Service credit hours and 12 Continuing Education credit hours.

Non-certified Master Gardeners will be maintained on the ISU Polk County List of Master Gardeners for a maximum of two calendar years. If, at the end of that time, the 12/12 requirement still has not been met, the MG will be dropped from the Polk County Master Gardener Directory.

During the time that a Master Gardener is maintained in a Non-Certified status, he or she will receive all ISU Polk County Extension communications on Master Gardener programs and

