

## About the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program

The OSU Extension Service in Benton County receives over 3,000 requests for home gardening information annually. To provide this information, OSU Extension enlists the assistance of Master Gardener volunteers.

The Master Gardener program began in 1978 to teach volunteers about technical horticulture and the resources of the Oregon State University Extension Service. The program provides Master Gardeners with tools to become better gardeners, the opportunity to network with fellow gardeners and the ability to share their knowledge with the increasingly large home gardening audience in Benton County.



## How long can I be an OSU Extension Master Gardener?

You may be a Master Gardener as long as you wish. To remain certified, each Master Gardener must complete an annual recertification program consisting of six hours of advanced training and ten hours of volunteer service in educational outreach.

A few have remained active since the first class was held in 1978. Others have remained active since their training. Many become members of the Master Gardener Association of Benton County. This association holds monthly meetings to gain additional knowledge, to plan community and educational gardening activities, and to socialize.



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## Oregon State University Extension Service Benton County Master Gardener™ Program



OSU Extension Master Gardeners use their training, research and knowledge to help home gardeners in Benton County learn proper sustainable gardening practices through workshops, demonstrations and one-on-one help. Read more to find out how you can become an OSU Extension Master Gardener.

## OSU Extension Master Gardener Interest Form

Yes, I am interested in the Master Gardener Program. Place my name on the list to receive an application for the volunteer training program.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

### Return to:

Master Gardener Program  
OSU Extension Service, Benton County  
1849 NW 9th Street  
Corvallis, OR 97330-2144

## Who are OSU Extension Master Gardeners?

Volunteer Master Gardeners receive intensive training provided by Oregon State University Extension faculty, outside professionals and experienced Master Gardeners.

They spend a minimum of 66 hours of volunteer time at the OSU Extension Service office and at farmers markets answering home gardening questions as well as participate in educational gardening events.



## How do I become an OSU Extension Master Gardener?

Potential Master Gardeners must have some gardening experience. They must be willing to spend one day each week for eleven consecutive weeks during January, February and March in the classroom where they receive a total of 66 hours of instruction. They must also agree to spend 66 hours in volunteer service providing gardening information to the public or remit \$500 for the course.

Each trainee spends a minimum of 46 hours at clinics or in the Extension office answering gardening questions for the general public. Trainees fulfill the additional hours by volunteering for Master Gardener community educational gardening activities.

## What should I expect in the class?

Training is one day each week for 11 consecutive weeks starting in January. Topics covered include botany basics, soil management, plant nutrition, pest identification and control, diagnosis of plant problems, growing vegetables, lawns, fruit trees and more.

Applications are accepted from October until mid-December. A required orientation session is held in mid-December at the Benton County Extension office. Applicant confirmation letters are mailed by December 18th at which time successful applicants pay for the class and pick up their training handbook.

