



### Extension Service Douglas County

Oregon State University, 1134 SE Douglas, PO Box 1165, Roseburg, Oregon 97470  
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Dear Gardener,

Thank you for your inquiry about the Douglas County Oregon State University Master Gardener™ program. Master Gardeners (MG's) are volunteers trained by OSU Extension Service agents and specialists. To become an OSU Master Gardener, you must complete the training program, pass a take home final examination following training and volunteer a specified number of hours of public service through the Master Gardener program.

Statewide, MG classes are offered in approximately 24 counties around Oregon, with the length of the classes and the topics offered varying somewhat depending on the needs for each county. MG's in Oregon have formed the Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA). The OMGA helps unify statewide Master Gardener activity and cooperates with OSU Extension Service to conduct the annual Master Gardener Mini-College.

The Master Gardener network operates in 46 states and four Canadian provinces. Since 1987 we have conducted international meetings of Master Gardeners every two years on the odd years, and since 1994 have had regional meetings on even years. We hope you will choose to join this active group of gardeners!

In Douglas County, the Douglas County Master Gardeners Association, a non-profit organization, oversees the activities of the Master Gardeners. The association works with the OSU Extension Service and the horticultural agent in Douglas County to provide gardening information to the public. Our objective is to inform and advise the people of Douglas County about horticulture and to effectively extend information about gardening by the use of certified volunteers. The agent and the Master Gardener board of directors set priorities for the community volunteer activities in which the association will participate.

Volunteers receive training in botany, soil science, insect and disease identification and control, care and culture of ornamental plants, small fruits, lawns, home orchards and vegetables and diagnosis of plant problems to prepare you to answer home gardening questions. Classes are offered only one time each year, from early January to mid-March. Classes are held one day per week, on Tuesdays, from 9am to 4pm, with an hour for lunch, at the OSU Extension Office in Roseburg. The office is located in the Church Annex next to the County Courthouse at 1134 S.E. Douglas Ave.

The second part of the program begins after classes are completed. Volunteers give sixty hours of their time extending home horticulture information to other gardeners. The sixty hours are to be given sometime during the year in an educational activity mutually agreed upon by you and us. Thirty-six of those volunteer hours are spent in our plant clinic, answering questions from homeowners on gardening topics. The other twenty-four hours are spent on activities that the Douglas County Master Gardener's have been involved in recently. Some of those other activities are, developing the Discovery Garden a

demonstration garden that is being used as our teaching center, giving presentations on various gardening topics to community groups, promoting the Master Gardener program at local fairs, festivals and farmers markets and working in our greenhouse to produce plants for our spring plant sale. Ideas from new members for community volunteer activities are always welcome, and if you have particular skills you would like to offer, we make a concerted effort to accommodate those.

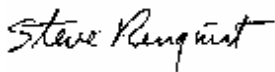
Your name will now be added to our file of gardeners interested in taking the next class. Generally we can accept up to fifty people in our training class. The cost of the program is \$100, which covers materials and is paid at the time of enrollment. The \$100 fee includes a copy of Sustainable Gardening, a comprehensive 500-page reference manual, prepared specifically for Oregon and Washington Master Gardeners. You will also receive dozens of detailed handouts during the eleven-week class schedule. If you feel you will have difficulty attending all the training classes, or performing the sixty hours of volunteer time, please contact me to discuss this prior to applying for the program.

You have also been given an application form for the Master Gardener program. If you wish to join, please fill it out and return the application to the OSU Extension office in Roseburg. If you wish to guarantee your place in the January class please include a check for \$100 along with your application. Even if you send your check in early with your application form you will still need to attend registration day on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. On November 13<sup>th</sup> you will be asked to pay the \$100 class fee if you did not send your check in early, you will receive your Sustainable Gardening book, and you will get an introduction to the Master Gardener Program. The registration will run from 11:30am to noon followed by the half hour introduction to the program that will end at 12:30pm. This early registration day will give you an opportunity to fully understand what our program entails before classes begin in January.

Thank you again for your interest in the Douglas County Master Gardener program. If you have additional questions about the program, please contact me at the address on the letterhead, email at [steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu](mailto:steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu), or call me at 672-4461.

We hope to see you in January!

Sincerely,



Steve Renquist  
Horticultural Agent  
Douglas County OSU Extension Service  
Email: [steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu](mailto:steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu)