

Dear Master Gardener Volunteers,

If you are interested in acquiring a Gmail account for yourself, there are a number of benefits for having one. They follow:

- These accounts are free unless you want to use it for a business;
- They are secure...any URL (web address) that begins with https:// (note the letter S) is considered secure and is more hack resistant than any other account without it. To that end, I know of no one who has had their Gmail account hacked unlike my Yahoo account and a friend's Hotmail account;
- The Gmail account comes with a free calendar, to which you can separate out your events into multiple calendars or you can view the calendars of friends and family...and the LCMGVolunteers calendar as well. You can also choose to make calendar entries public or private as you create them;
- They come with loads of storage, so you never seem to run out of room and have to clean your inbox out;
- There are other features to Gmail that you can use, should you wish to delve into all that is Google and their Help system is fairly user friendly.

To create your account, go to Google on the internet and type in "Gmail" and a link will come up allowing you to create this account. It is fairly straightforward and is just like setting up any account on the internet. They want your name, address, and an existing e-mail address that you already have.

Should you decide to switch to Gmail, you can either do the full switch and let everyone know or you can keep it for just MG related stuff or just use it for the calendar once you've got the account. It is your choice as to how to use it once you've got it set up. If you do decide to have it be for MG stuff, please let Linda know when your address changes.

Thank you.

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