



OSU Extension Service Portland Metro Master Gardener™ Program

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Dear Gardener,

Thank you for your interest in the Oregon State University (OSU) Master Gardener program. We are a service organization. The Metro Master Gardener Program provides relevant, research-based education and outreach to the public of Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties about horticulture and household pests. This information promotes sustainable practices that minimize risks to human health and the environment.

The Master Gardener (MG) training is an OSU Extension Service program that delivers a comprehensive gardening education to Oregonians. This non-credit, college-level class and volunteer program is designed to provide residents with the gardening information, resources, training, and support that they need to effectively communicate about all aspects of gardening with diverse audiences. The Metro Master Gardener Program contains four primary components:

1. A 66-hour training focused on all aspects of growing and caring for plants including substantial curriculum on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) (a systematic method for diagnosing problems in the garden and implementing least-toxic management techniques). This course is taught by OSU Extension faculty and other gardening experts in a fun, interactive, and hands-on format. The Master Gardener course includes the following major topics: Botany for gardeners, Soils and compost, Home vegetable and container gardening, Small fruits, Home orchards, and pruning, Ornamental plant and lawn care, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Garden entomology (insect identification) and household pests, Plant diseases and plant disease diagnostics, Ecological landscape design and water-wise gardening strategies, Safe pesticide use and weed management, Vertebrate pest management, and Volunteer resources, training, and communication.
2. A 66-hour internship in which new trainees help to educate the public about gardening in the following ways:
 - Answer the general public's questions about plants, gardening, and household pests in telephone and community-based plant clinics.
 - Serve as garden educators in school and community gardens throughout the metro region.
3. On-going support for nearly 800 OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Volunteers in the metro area.
4. **Optional** participation in Master Gardener Chapter activities. (MG chapters are separate non-profit organizations focused on supporting the OSU Extension Master Gardener program. There are three MG chapters the metro area in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties).

Details about the 66-hour Internship and Master Gardener Volunteer Program:

New Master Gardener trainees in 2009 will participate in a 66-hour internship serving as volunteer garden educators in their communities. New trainees will complete their classroom training in March 2009 and then are expected to complete 66 hrs of hands-on service as interns by October 1, 2009. New Master Gardener trainees are supported in their activities by the Master Gardener program staff and by veteran MG volunteers. Upon submission of proper documentation of time spent in this internship, new trainees will receive an official "OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Volunteer" name badge. At that time, we encourage participants to enter into our on-going volunteer program for a minimum of 1 year to continue their learning. Master Gardener volunteers spend a minimum of 25 hours per year serving as mentors, educators, and in support roles of the Master Gardener program. We encourage long-term volunteerism.

During the 1-year internship portion of the MG volunteer program, participants must complete their 66-hours of service according to the following guidelines:

- At least 33 hours of service for our Master Gardener telephone/computer hotlines (in Beaverton and Oregon City) or at remote plant clinics at farmers markets, nurseries, and other venues in the metro area.
- At least 6 hours of service in any one of our three Master Gardener demonstration gardens in the metro area.
- At least 27 additional hours that can be spent either in a direct educational role or supporting educational activities. (note: new trainees can accumulate 1 hour toward their internship hours by attending any Master Gardener chapter meetings in the metro area).
- New trainees are welcome to contribute more hours of volunteer service in any of these categories.

Here are some of the many opportunities for the internship and ongoing volunteer service as a Master Gardener in the Portland metro area (Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties):

- Home horticulture hotlines to answer the public's plant questions.
- Plant diagnostic clinics at farmers' markets, retail nurseries, and special events.
- Demonstration and community gardens.
- School gardens and nutrition programs.
- Gardening programs of regional importance in association with Portland City Parks and Metro including:
 - International Rose Test Garden- Washington Park
 - Pittock Mansion
 - Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden
 - Oregon Zoo
- Doernbecher Children's' Hospital garden
- Other horticulture programs in the Portland metro area:
 - Oregon Association of Nurseries Yard, Garden, and Patio Show
 - Metro's annual Gardens of Natural Delights tour
- Annual plant sales across the metro region

2009 Master Gardener Training Specifics

The MG training is 66-hours and takes place on weekdays for an 11-week period starting in mid-January. There are three classes to choose from in the Portland metro area:

Location	Day	Dates
Beaverton	Tuesday	January 6 – March 17
N.E. Portland	Thursday	January 8 – March 19
Oregon City	Friday	January 9 – March 20

Classes are held on weekdays from 9:00AM - 4:00PM

The **\$345** cost for the Master Gardener Training Program includes:

- Course instruction facilitated by OSU Extension faculty and other gardening experts
- The Oregon-Washington Master Gardener Handbook
- An OSU Master Gardener identification badge
- Volunteer support.

Participants must attend 80% of the class time and complete 66 hours of documented internship time by October 1, 2009 to become an Oregon State University certified Master Gardener Volunteer and to receive the official name badge.

Sign up soon, as space is limited in each training location.

The Registration Deadline is November 30, 2008. You will receive a welcome packet by mid-December.

To Register for the 2009 Master Gardener Training:

Mail the attached "2009 Master Gardener Registration Form" and "Pesticide Recommendation Agreement Form" along with your program fee to the address below:

There are a limited number of **scholarships** available. Please ask.

If you have questions, please contact Jordis Yost at 503-650-3118 or email Jordis.yost@oregonstate.edu

Sincerely,

Weston Miller and Jordis Yost – OSU Master Gardener Program Staff

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