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Jackson County Master Gardener™ Program Certification and Recertification Policy

CERTIFICATION – One becomes a Certified OSU Extension Master Gardener through successful completion of the annual Master Gardener training program. Successful completion entails three components, all of which must be met.

1. Attendance at and participation in the annual Master Gardener classes;
2. Completion of the final review test with a score of at least 70%; and
3. Completion of 70 volunteer service hours, to be completed by October 31 of the training year.

At least 20 of the 70 hours must be accomplished through plant clinic service. The remaining hours may be completed through any Jackson County Master Gardener volunteer activity, or other home horticulture educational activities approved by the Master Gardener Coordinator. MG Trainees are strongly encouraged to participate in the Master Gardener Practicum and the educational demonstration gardens through the Apprentice Program.

Initial certification is good through the year following initial completion requirements, e.g. an individual graduating in 2011 is a certified Master Gardener through 2012.

RECERTIFICATION - Master Gardeners must recertify annually to remain a certified Master Gardener. For instance, Master Gardeners graduating in 2011 are certified through 2012, but must complete recertification requirements during 2012 to become recertified for 2013.

Recertification is defined as: *Completing educational training to further and enhance the individual's skills in the areas of community horticulture deemed important to the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program.*

Why do we require recertification? As time goes by, we all forget details of diagnosis and appropriate advice. Also, information changes rapidly as new research results and products or appropriate cultural treatments become available. The goal is to keep Master Gardeners updated and available to provide high quality and up-to-date advice to the public.

Master Gardeners must be certified or recertified in order to work in a plant clinic and to present public programs on behalf of OSU Extension. You can continue as a member of the Master Gardener Association, and participate in all other Master Gardener activities, without recertification. And if you wish to work in the plant clinic for your personal

development, you can do so as long as a certified Master Gardener is present.

To maintain a high standard in the Oregon Master Gardener Program, it is important to have some degree of uniformity for recertification requirements, while providing the flexibility needed within individual counties to meet local needs. **The following are the requirements for recertification in Jackson County:**

- **Donating a minimum of ten (10) hours of volunteer service, and**
- **Completing six (6) or more hours of continuing education** through:
 - Auditing class sessions during the annual Master Gardener training program.
 - Participation in any approved classes during the annual Master Gardener's Mini-College.
 - Participation in county-sponsored training sessions such as Winter Dreams, Summer Gardens (Jackson County), Seeds of Spring Home Garden Seminar (Josephine County), or most of the evening or weekend classes.
 - Participation in any other home horticulture related classes. These must be individually documented and approved by the Master Gardener coordinator.
 - Self-study programs in home horticulture related topics, as approved by the Master Gardener coordinator. Research to prepare home horticulture related presentations often can fulfill the requirement this way.
 - Scoring a 70% or better on an open book Recertification Review.

Finally, you need to **report your volunteer and educational hours** either on-line at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/vrs> or manually in the Master Gardener office.

January 31, 2012