



Extension Service Yamhill County

Oregon State University, 2050 Lafayette Street, McMinnville, OR 97128-9333
T 503-434-7517 | F 503-472-3054 | <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/>

Dear Potential Master Gardener:

Thank you for inquiring about the Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Program, a program of Oregon State University's Extension Service. OSU Master Gardeners™ (MG's) are volunteers trained by OSU Extension Service faculty and specialists, as well as by others knowledgeable about horticultural subjects. To become an OSU Master Gardener™, you must complete the training program, pass a review exam, and volunteer a minimum of 65 hours of public service through the OSU Master Gardener™ Program.

Statewide, MG classes are offered in approximately 26 counties, with the length of the classes and topics offered varying somewhat depending on the needs for each county. MGs in Oregon have formed the Oregon Master Gardener™ Association (OMGA). The OMGA helps to unify statewide Master Gardener™ activities, supports the Community Horticulture Program and cooperates with OSU Extension Service to conduct the annual Gardener's Mini-College. Nationwide and internationally, the MG network now extends to 46 states and 4 Canadian provinces.

As the faculty member for Community Horticulture, I oversee the activities of OSU Master Gardeners™. Your foremost activity will be to provide gardening information to the public. This is done through a Master Gardener™ Desk in the Extension Office, through plant clinics held in the community, through demonstration gardens, plant sales, and other related activities.

You will 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. Diagnosis of plant problems is included to prepare you to answer home gardening questions. We offer only one set of classes each year, from early January through March (January 7-March 18, 2010). Classes are held on Thursdays, from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM., however this year we will be scheduling some morning-only half days combined with an online learning class (complete course details available in late October). On full class days, you will be expected to bring a lunch and to stay through the lunch break, since only 30 minutes is set aside for lunch. For online classes, you will need access to a computer with high speed internet access. If you do not have a suitable home computer, you will need to find access through a public facility, such as a library, or you will be able to use one of several machines available at the Extension Office where classes are held. The classes are held next to Extension Service offices in the Public Works Auditorium at 2050 NE Lafayette Avenue in McMinnville.

The second phase of the program begins after classes are completed in March. You will volunteer at least 65 hours of your time in educational or informational activities for the public. Of the required volunteer hours, at least 28 hours must be “On the Desk” or in other approved clinic activities. The MG Desk is a walk-in or call-in clinic that is open every afternoon for most of the year. At least 16 hours additional must be spent in a community service project. You will choose among several options we will make available to you. The remaining hours may be spent on other approved projects.

I have included with this letter an application form for OSU Extension Master Gardeners™. If you are interested in the program, please complete the application and return it to me as soon as possible. The cost of the program is \$90 per applicant (checks made out to OSU Extension). We would like to have all completed applications and payments by December 18, 2009. An additional fee of \$35.00 (checks made out to OSU Extension) covers the cost of Sustainable Gardening, a comprehensive 500-page reference manual and binder prepared specifically for the Oregon and Washington Master Gardeners. This manual can be picked up in the Extension office any time before the 2010 program begins.

Depending upon the response, we may not have enough room to accept everyone who applies. You may receive a follow-up telephone call from me or one of the MG volunteers, if we have further question or would like to meet you in person.

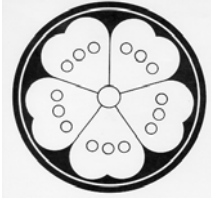
If the fee represents a financial hardship, please call or follow the instructions on the application form. We need to cover some of the costs of the training sessions, but wish to do so in ways that allow interested and qualified volunteers to participate. The Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association contributes \$50 for each applicant as part of its educational mission. If you are accepted to the program and need to cancel for any reason, your fee is refundable fully if you cancel by December 18, 2009.

Thank you for your interest in the Yamhill County Master Gardener Program. If you have any other questions, please feel free to call me. I hope to meet you soon.

Yours truly,

Linda R. McMahan, Ph.D.
Community Horticulture Faculty
Yamhill County-OSU Extension Service

PS: For more information & some fun photos, check out the website at:
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill> and look under Community Horticulture.



**Yamhill County 2010
OSU Master Gardener™**
Application Form

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

Occupation _____

Retired? _____ Yes _____ No

We ask that OSU Master Gardener™ applicants be interested in learning more about gardening and sharing their knowledge with others, and be willing and able to fulfill their volunteer commitment of 65 hours. No prior knowledge or experience is required. We will use the following questions to learn more about you. Please feel free to add information or comments on an additional page.

1. Why do you want to be an OSU Master Gardener™?

2. How long have you been gardening?

3. In what parts of the state or the country have you gardened?

4. What are your special gardening interests? Check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/> vegetables	<input type="checkbox"/> fruit
<input type="checkbox"/> turf/lawns	<input type="checkbox"/> herbs
<input type="checkbox"/> trees/shrubs	<input type="checkbox"/> flowers
<input type="checkbox"/> houseplants	<input type="checkbox"/> garden design
<input type="checkbox"/> structures	<input type="checkbox"/> native plants

5. Have you had any formal training in horticulture or gardening?

<input type="checkbox"/> High School	<input type="checkbox"/> College
<input type="checkbox"/> 4-H	<input type="checkbox"/> Workshops
<input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club	

6. Are you a member of any garden clubs, plant societies, or similar groups with an interest in horticulture activities? Please list.

7. Do you have any volunteer experience? Please describe briefly.

8. Do you have any experience in teaching or presenting programs?

Yes No

If yes, this experience has been for:

Children/Youth Adults

Describe briefly.

9. How did you learn about the OSU Master Gardener Program™? Check all that apply.

Friend/acquaintance Radio
 Newspaper Brochure
 Website Other

10. Can you arrange your schedule so that you can participate in the training programs that run from 9AM-4PM on Thursdays, January through March 2010?

Yes No

11. Can you arrange your schedule so that you can volunteer in the OSU Master Gardener™ program for at least 65 hours between April and November of 2010?

Yes No

12. Can you arrange your schedule so that you can spend at least 28 hours on weekday afternoons to be at the OSU Master Gardener™ desk in the OSU-Yamhill County Extension Office in 2010?

Yes No

13. Do you have access to the internet through a home computer or at a public facility such as the local library, or are you able to come to the OSU Yamhill County Extension Office to use available computers to complete online course trainings?

_____ Yes _____ No

14. Some financial assistance in the form of scholarships and fee reductions may be available if financial concerns would keep you from completing the program. If you would like to be considered for financial assistance, please enclose a separate letter requesting assistance and describing why you need assistance.

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If accepted as an OSU Master Gardener™ Trainee, I am willing to:

- χ Attend all days of OSU Master Gardener™ training
- χ Follow the recommended practices of the OSU Extension Service
- χ Commit to at least 65 hours of volunteer service as an OSU Master Gardener™

I have enclosed payment for \$90.00 (checks made out to OSU Extension.) to hold my place in the 2010 OSU Master Gardener™ training in Yamhill County, if I am accepted. I understand that if I am not accepted, the check will be returned to me. The textbook, “Sustainable Gardening” and binder for the training program are a separate cost of \$35.00 (checks made out to OSU Extension) and can be picked up in the Extension office before the beginning of the program.

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

Please complete this application and return it to  
Linda R. McMahan  
Faculty for Community Horticulture  
OSU Extension Service, Yamhill County  
2050 Lafayette Ave., McMinnville, OR 97128