



The Idaho Master Gardener - A Program of Growing Interest

The Master Gardener Program is "helping people grow." The program provides gardeners with an intensive education in horticultural principles. Participants who complete the program are certified as Master Gardeners.

Master Gardeners volunteer to provide leadership and educational service to their community in home gardening. This service consists of answering garden questions, giving horticultural talks, conducting workshops, leading garden tours, working on community beautification projects, introducing children to gardening, and other related activities. In Idaho, the Master Gardener Program is conducted by the University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System through participating county offices.

Volunteers in the Master Gardener Program help fulfill the University of Idaho College of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension System's mission of Meeting the Needs of Idaho's Greatest Resource - Its People.

Through the Master Gardener training sessions you will become knowledgeable about a wide array of horticultural subjects. This knowledge will increase your skills as well as enable you to assist fellow gardeners with horticultural questions. As a Master Gardener you will work extensively with the public and have the opportunity to participate in organized volunteer activities and/or develop special horticultural programs within your community.

Training

Classes are taught by University of Idaho and Utah State University Extension Specialists and Extension Educators as well as experts from the community. The program offers topics such as lawn care; ornamental trees and shrubs; insect, disease and weed control; pesticide safety; soil and water management; fruit and vegetable culture;

plant propagation; house plants; garden flowers; and green house and nursery management.

The training is given each year from the middle of January through April. Check with your local Extension System office for specific locations, dates and times. Each class is usually three hours long and meets 12 times. Short quizzes plus exams are given on material covered in class and found in reference materials.

Commitment

In exchange for the training, participants are required to return 33 hours of volunteer time to their community through local Extension System programs. The type of service done by Master Gardeners varies. The Extension Educator, in consultation with the Master Gardener volunteer, will decide how time can best be spent to make use of the volunteer's interests and skills.

Upon completion of classes and the volunteer commitment, participants are then graduated and certified as Idaho Master Gardeners.

Who Can Apply?

Anyone with an interest in horticulture can apply for the Master Gardener Program. Persons must be interested in improving their own skills and knowledge. Plus, they must be willing to share their knowledge with others. Class attendance is required. Class size is limited to approximately 30 students. so please apply early.

Cost

There is a \$65 fee (\$90 per couple) to cover supplies and reference materials, which become part of your personal library.

For further information and an application, contact the Franklin County Extension office at 852-1097.

College of Agriculture

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