

Master Gardener Class

Training Program begins in January 2019

Why become a Master Gardener?

Master Gardeners improve communities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia by sharing sound horticultural knowledge and teaching environmentally responsible landscape practices.

**Registration Opens
October 1, 2018**

**Orientation Session
January 17, 2019**

(Snow Date: Jan. 24)



How do I become a Master Gardener?

You must complete a 50-hour training program that provides research-based information on a variety of horticultural and environmental topics. Additional information about the training program is on the back of this flyer. If you have questions, please contact the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office (phone: 434-799-6558, email: sbird@vt.edu) or visit the VCE office at 326 Taylor Dr., Suite 100, Danville, VA between 8 am-5 pm, Monday-Friday.

Registration opens October 1, 2018. The required orientation session is January 17, 2019, 6:30 pm-9 pm. In case of inclement weather, call the Danville VCE office at 434-799-6558.



Computer-Based, Modularized, and Self-Paced Independent Study plus Hands-On Labs

Students will work independently through 15 modules that contain required readings, slide presentations, self-tests of knowledge, internet links to suggested reading, and open book quizzes. Students will receive the learning modules on a flash drive to use with their own computers.

The textbook for the class is the *Virginia Master Gardener Handbook*. (The cost of the textbook is included in the application fee.)

Ten hands-on labs will be offered, one or two each month from February through July. Each student must participate in at least five of these, although attendance at all labs is encouraged.

Labs will be held at a variety of sites to allow students to actively participate in horticulture studies of topics such as plant propagation, woody landscape plants, and soils and nutrients.

There will be an open-book final exam. An average grade of 70% or higher is required for the quizzes and final exam.

While the class is self-paced, students must complete the training program within six months.

The Instructors

Instructors for the hands-on labs include Virginia Cooperative Extension educators, specialists from Virginia Tech, local horticulture professionals, soil and water conservation specialists, and veteran Master Gardeners.

Internship

In addition to the training program, a fifty (50) hour internship (volunteer service) is required at the end of the Master Gardener course. Internship hours include ten hours working at the Virginia Cooperative Extension office Help Desk (with an experienced Master Gardener as mentor). The internship must be completed within the year that follows completion of the modules, labs, and final exam to obtain full Master Gardener certification. Trainees may begin serving and reporting volunteer hours after the first class (Orientation) of the MG training program.

Volunteer projects and programs that count as internship hours include but are not limited to: additional assistance with the Help Desk (responding to calls from Danville/Pittsylvania County residents on a variety of horticultural issues); planning and/or conducting gardening seminars; educating students through approved school and educational projects; assisting with the annual Spring to Green horticultural symposium; supporting the role of Virginia Cooperative Extension in community endeavors such as plant clinics, answering horticultural questions at local community markets, and speaking to groups interested in learning about horticulture.

Mentors

Each student will be assigned an experienced Master Gardener as a mentor. Students can call or email their mentor, as well as meet face-to-face, to ask questions or discuss the learning experience. Mentors will help interns become involved in projects/activities to fulfill their internship hours and become involved in DMGA, the local Master Gardener Association.

Application

Class size is limited! Applications will be accepted starting October 1, 2018. An interview will be conducted after the application is received. Upon acceptance, a \$130 registration fee will be due. **Applications and registration fees received after January 1 must include an additional late registration fee of \$25. Applications will not be accepted after January 10, 2019.**

Welcome, Future Master Gardener!

We look forward to meeting you, working with you, and helping you to become a fellow certified Master Gardener.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Stuart Sutphin at 434-799-6558 (8:30 am-5:00 pm) to discuss needed accommodations when you register.