
What is the UWEX Master Gardener Program?

Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who aid University of Wisconsin Extension staff by helping people in the community better understand horticulture and their environment.

Any adult interested in gardening can participate in the Master Gardener training—no previous experience or training is required. Potential Master Gardener Volunteers should be interested in horticulture, willing to help people with their horticultural concerns, dependable, unbiased and open-minded, and be willing to provide volunteer service to their community.

Participants receive a minimum of 36 hours of in-depth classroom training on a variety of horticulture topics including soils, botany, entomology, plant pathology, houseplants, landscaping, turf, vegetables, fruits, and ornamental plants. In return, students are asked to volunteer a minimum of 24 hours of their time to the community doing gardening activities.

To become certified as a Master Gardener, you will need to attend most of the training sessions, pass a take-home final examination, and fulfill your community service commitment.

University of Wisconsin, United States Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin Counties Cooperating. UW-Extension provides equal opportunity in employment and programming including Title IX and ADA requirements. If you have any special needs or require special accommodations, please call the Polk County UW-Extension Office at 715-485-8600 as early as possible preceding the scheduled program, service or activity.

What can you do as a Master Gardener?

In exchange for its training, UWEX asks that you donate a minimum of 24 hours of volunteer hours of your time each year. *You may also help with Extension approved programs such as:*

- ▶ Extension demonstration and community gardens.
- ▶ County and community fairs
- ▶ Public libraries
- ▶ Botanical gardens
- ▶ Horticultural workshops and talks
- ▶ Horticultural therapy projects
- ▶ Farmers' markets
- ▶ Collecting research data
- ▶ Answering telephone inquiries for horticultural information
- ▶ Writing newspaper gardening columns
- ▶ Adopt-a-Classroom
- ▶ National Junior Horticulture Association
- ▶ Volunteer at your County Extension Office
- ▶ Local parks and beautification communities
- ▶ Grounds maintenance
- ▶ Youth groups such as 4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.
- ▶ Other horticultural projects

The volunteer opportunities are endless. Many Master Gardeners enthusiastically volunteer their time beyond the required minimum number of hours. Last year alone, Polk County Master Gardeners volunteered over 700 hours of horticulture related community service.

Enjoying Gardening & Helping Others!

Volunteer to help your community and increase your horticulture skills

UW-Extension Master Gardener Program



**MASTER GARDENING GENERAL
TRAINING SPRING 2007**

Locations and Dates

The master Gardener Program is sponsored by Polk County UW-Extension in cooperation with the Polk County Master Gardeners. There will be 12 weekly sessions from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. beginning January 22 and ending April 15. No program on March 18.

The trainings will be held at the Polk County Government Center.

Topics

The General Master Gardener Training includes a wide range of horticulture related topics. Each week a different topic will be discussed. Gardeners will receive instruction in the following areas:

Annual Flowers, Entomology, Landscape Plants, Fruit Crops, Low Input Lawn Care, Soils, Backyard Wildlife, Plant Pathology, Vegetables, Using Native Plants, Houseplants, and Herbaceous Perennials.



Instructors

Experts from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and Extension will lead the classes via teleconference and video presentations. There will be opportunities to interact during question and answer sessions.

Program Fees

The registration fee is \$120. You will receive the Handbook for Wisconsin Gardeners (a reference notebook with dozens of University of Wisconsin publications) and the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program Manual (which includes speaker notes and handouts).

If you are interested in participating in the Master Gardener Training, please fill out the attached registration form. Return the completed form to the Polk County UW-Extension Office with your check as soon as possible. Class size is limited. Paid registration should be received in the Polk County UW-Extension by January 7, 2008.

For more information, contact Ryan Sterry, Agricultural/Horticultural Agent, at 715-485-8600 or ryan.sterry@ces.uwex.edu.



Registration Form

Pre-registration is required

The registration deadline is January 7, 2007.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Payment must accompany registration. Please make check payable to: *UW-Extension*, enclose with completed registration form, and mail to:

Polk County UW-Extension
Master Gardener Registration
100 Polk County Plaza, Suite 210
Balsam Lake, WI 54810