



## Community projects

Master Gardener projects are as diverse as the communities where volunteers serve.

Project examples include:

- Educational garden sites at schools
- Planning time period appropriate landscaping for local historic sites
- Managing a community garden that donates fresh produce to local food pantries.
- Leading a workshop for homeowners on environmentally friendly lawn practices

## How to join

To learn more about the Master Gardener program or to apply to join your local program, visit [extension.illinois.edu/mg](https://extension.illinois.edu/mg).

For more information about home gardening, visit [extension.illinois.edu/global/horticulture](https://extension.illinois.edu/global/horticulture).

## Help Others Grow

Master Gardeners are more than gardening enthusiasts. They are trained horticultural experts who serve their communities through educational projects and programs.



**University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign College of  
Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences**

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**Illinois Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION**  
Serving Fulton, Mason, Peoria and  
Tazewell Counties

*Master  
Gardener*  
Helping Others Learn To Grow



## What is a Master Gardener?

The University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener program is open to adults who are interested in plants and have a desire to share knowledge with their community. There are more than 2,700 Master Gardener volunteers in Illinois. Volunteers must complete training and agree to volunteer at least 60 hours over two years.

## What is training like?

**In-person training:** On-site classes are hosted once a year by local Extension offices. Training dates and length vary. Class sizes may be limited.

**Online training:** Unable to attend in-person training? An online, self-guided course is available.

**A non-volunteer option** is also available for those who want to learn, but do not plan on volunteering.

University of Illinois staff provide research-based training that covers a variety of topics:

- Soils and fertilizer
- Turfgrass care
- Vegetable gardening
- Pests and diseases
- Flower gardening
- Tree and shrub care

## Is the Master Gardener program for you?

- Do I want to learn about plant care and gardening?
- Do I look forward to sharing my knowledge with my community?
- Am I eager to participate in training?
- Do I have time to attend the training and complete annual volunteer and continuing education requirements?

If you answered “yes” to the above questions, the Master Gardener program could be for you.

## Where can I volunteer?

After training and certification, Master Gardeners must volunteer 60 hours over two years. They also must attend 10 hours of continuing education.

Volunteers work with Extension staff to identify educational horticulture projects for hours. Opportunities include answering phone or email garden questions; staffing plant clinics or farmers markets; creating demonstration gardens; leading programs with schools and other organizations.

Master Gardeners educate the public on topics such as improving landscapes, creating pollinator habitats, choosing plant varieties, how to save water, pest management, growing fruits and vegetables, tree care, and composting.



## Become a Master Gardener

To become a Master Gardener, you must submit an application. There will be a background screening and interview with Extension staff. Once accepted, a participation fee will cover training costs.

Master Gardeners are an integral part of Illinois Extension outreach and are covered by the university's liability policy. In all their volunteer work, Master Gardeners are expected to follow the recommendations of the university.



## Interested?

Want to learn more about what it means to be a Master Gardener or interested in becoming a volunteer? Check out our website to learn more and get connected.

Contact Extension Master Gardener Coordinator Ainsley Olsen, [ainsleyo@illinois.edu](mailto:ainsleyo@illinois.edu) or 309-547-3711.

### 2025 Horticulture Core Education Training

September 29 - October 3, 2025

Applications are being accepted.

SCAN ME



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