

June 2021

Hybrid Master Gardener Training

University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners are a special group of people who all have a common interest – a love of gardening and the desire to share that knowledge with others. The program aims to give intensive horticultural training to individuals who will, in turn, "Help Others Learn to Grow."

In 2021 a Hybrid Master Gardener Training option was started. This training used a flipped classroom model where participants reviewed resources and watched videos on a given topic before participating in the weekly live sessions.

This hybrid option provided an opportunity for individuals who needed more flexibility in order to participate in Master Gardener training. Additionally, the online portion gave trainees the ability to learn at their own pace, while the live webinar sessions allowed them to interact with Extension educators and specialists as well as fellow trainees.



Classes covered a wide range of horticultural topics, including botany, soils, woody and herbaceous plants, fruits and vegetables, insects, and plant diseases.

Eight participants completed the training, and six have decided to continue with the program to become Master Gardener Interns. They join 17 other Master Gardener volunteers in the unit in providing horticultural outreach to residents and communities in Calhoun, Cass, Greene, Morgan, and Scott counties.

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