



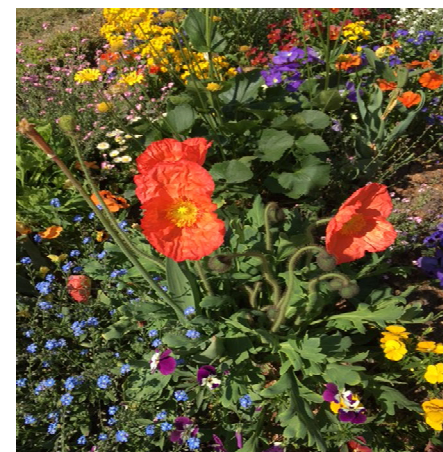
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ILLINOIS EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER



The Mission of University of Illinois Extension is to provide practical education you can trust to help people, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills and build a better future.

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<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/blmp/>

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please call 815.224.0889.

**Learn how to become a
Master Gardener
Volunteer in Bureau,
LaSalle, Marshall and
Putnam Counties!**



What is the Master Gardener Program?

The mission of the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener Program is "**Helping Others Learn to Grow.**" The Master Gardener Program educates people about environmentally sound horticulture and gardening practices, provides educational programming when requested, and assists the general public with questions related to horticultural practices through a network of volunteers trained and managed by University of Illinois faculty and staff.



Who Can Become A Master Gardener?

Master Gardeners are adults (age 19 or older) who love gardening and who have previous gardening experience.

You can become a Master Gardener if:

- you have some knowledge or experience in gardening;
- you are willing to learn about horticulture and share this knowledge;
- you can volunteer time conducting horticultural educational programming coordinated through the University of Illinois Extension Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam Unit.

There are currently more than 3,200 Master Gardener Volunteers in Illinois!

What Is Required?

To become a Master Gardener, you must submit an application to the Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam Unit and complete an interview. Trainees who have been accepted into the program are required to complete background checks. Trainees must also complete a required Child Protection Course.

Once accepted, you can begin the training program. Classes are taught once a week for 11 weeks, usually beginning in mid to late January. Classes are taught by University of Illinois specialists and Extension Educators. A fee of \$300 is charged to cover the class and manual costs.



What Will You Do As A Volunteer?

Volunteers participate in a variety of outreach and educational opportunities that are pre-approved by the Extension Unit to fulfill a 30-hour per year volunteer requirement. Our local Extension Unit provides horticultural presentations to public libraries, assists with school teaching gardens, hosts informational tables at Farmer's Markets, participates in local community gardens that benefit community food pantries, helps provide guidance for native plants and gardening to local preserves, and many other exciting projects.

Should You Become A Master Gardener?

- Do you want to learn more about horticultural topics?
- Do you have enough time to attend the training program?
- Do you have enough time to complete annual volunteer and continuing education requirements to stay an active Master Gardener?
- Do you look forward to sharing your knowledge with youth and adults in your community?

If you answered "yes" to these questions, then the Master Gardener Training Program could be for you!



Come Grow With Us!

If you are interested in the Master Gardener Program, please contact Meg Overocker, Extension Program Coordinator at meo@illinois.edu