

Become A...



Master Gardener

Volunteer

“Helping Gardeners put
Knowledge to Work”

North Carolina
Cooperative Extension

Why Should I Become A Master Gardener?

You will learn about a wide array of gardening subjects. The practical training is designed to:

- ⇒ Increase your confidence and horticultural skills.
- ⇒ Enable you to help the public with questions and problems involved with gardening.
- ⇒ Help you contribute to your community.
- ⇒ Give you the pleasure and reward of working with others who share your interests.

Volunteers also participate in advanced Master Gardener Training classes and field trips. The learning process and the opportunities for satisfaction never end!

Who Can Become A Master Gardener?

Individuals eager to learn more about gardening and a willingness to volunteer in the community are potential candidates. Previous formal training is not necessary.

**For more information, an
Application form and a
schedule of future training,
Contact:**



Catawba County Center
North Carolina
Cooperative Extension
1175 S. Brady Avenue
PO Box 389
Newton, NC 28658
Phone 828.465.8240
Fax 828.465.8428

<http://catawba.ces.ncsu.edu/>

Master Gardener Volunteers are individuals who want to learn more about growing plants.

They receive extensive training through the Cooperative Extension. In exchange, they volunteer their knowledge and expertise to the gardening public.

Is the Master Gardener Program For You?

To help you decide if you should apply to be a Master Gardener, ask yourself these questions:

- ⇒ Do I want to learn more about gardening and landscaping in Catawba County?
- ⇒ Am I eager to participate in a practical and intensive training program?
- ⇒ Do I look forward to sharing my knowledge with people in my community?
- ⇒ Do I have enough time to attend training and serve as a volunteer?

If you answered yes to these questions, the Master Gardener program could be for you.

Training

If accepted into the Master Gardener program in Catawba County, you will attend a Master Gardener training course. Classes are taught by Extension staff, local experts and Master Gardener Volunteers each Spring.

The program offers a minimum of 40 hours of instruction that covers topics including lawns; ornamental trees and shrubs; insect, disease, and weed management; soils and plant nutrition; vegetable gardening; home fruit production; garden flowers; and water conservation.

You will receive a Master Gardener Manual of comprehensive horticulture subjects.

Volunteer Commitment

Once you successfully complete the training program and pass the final exam, you will begin a volunteer internship. This is where you will really learn more about plants and people. Your first year you will complete 40 volunteer hours. Each year after you will volunteer 20 hours to remain in the program.

Volunteer Activities

The opportunities for volunteer service are limitless:

- ⇒ Staff plant clinics and educational exhibits in the community.
- ⇒ Staff the Master Gardener Clinic at the Extension Center.
- ⇒ Design a demonstration or community garden.
- ⇒ Lecture on various gardening topics.
- ⇒ Bring the joys of gardening to senior citizens or young children.

Master Gardeners are representatives of North Carolina Cooperative Extension. Master Gardeners follow the research-based recommendations of Cooperative Extension. The title Master Gardener can only be used by volunteers only when engaged in Cooperative Extension sponsored activities.