

WSU Extension Master Gardener Program

Cultivating plants, people, and communities since 1973

986 S Main, Suite D
Colville, WA 99114
Phone: 509-684-2588
E-mail: linda.teller@wsu.edu
extension.wsu.edu/stevens/gardening/



Dear Prospective Volunteer,

Have you always wanted to learn more about gardening, meet new people, and make a difference in the community? Then the **WSU Extension Master Gardener** program may be just what you're looking for. Extension Master Gardeners have fun, learn new things, and meet new friends, all while giving back to their communities. It's a win-win.

Thank you for your interest in the Master Gardener Program! Started in WA state in 1973 (50 years ago), this program provides university-trained volunteers to empower and sustain diverse communities with relevant, unbiased, research-based horticulture and environmental stewardship education for a healthy planet and a healthy people. Learn more about our program priorities on our state website at <https://mastergardener.wsu.edu>.

The first step in becoming a **WSU Extension Master Gardener** is to take *Basic Training*, a college-level 13-15 week horticulture series including both online work and in-person training/lab sessions. The online portion requires a computer and, using the Canvas platform, students read chapter assignments, watch training videos, complete crossword puzzles and other fun exercises, take chapter quizzes, and then take the final exam. In-person sessions are held every other week and often include hands-on exercises that are critical in the learning process, so only one absence is excused. The in-person classes also help you to become acquainted with our local program's projects and volunteers and to work as a cohesive group! At the end of the course, each student is expected to make a 15-minute presentation to their fellow classmates on an appropriate subject that interests them and follows specific guidelines.

Important Dates:

Applications Due: August 31, 2023

Program Acceptance: late September

Program Orientation and Meet and Greet: mid-to-late October

Classes Start/End: mid-late October to early March, with 3-week break at the end of December.

Becoming a Master Gardener is **rewarding**, but it is a time-consuming endeavor. Therefore, classes occur in the *fall/winter* timeframe, when outdoor activities are minimal and computer time more available! The in-person sessions are held in the Colville TEDD/WSU Conference Rooms, day/time to be determined. Cost of training is \$140 and is payable upon acceptance into the program (scholarships available). After completion of training, a **40-hour internship** is required to be **certified** as a WSU Extension Master Gardener. Students who become certified *serve the community* as home-garden horticulture advisors and **earn the title** "WSU Extension Stevens County Master Gardener".

NOTE: For the safety of our community, you will be asked to complete a national background check.

Please contact me directly at 509-684-2588 or via e-mail at linda.teller@wsu.edu with questions.

I look forward to meeting you!

Kind Regards,
Linda Teller, Extension Coordinator
WSU Extension Master Gardener Program, Stevens County



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.