

Washington State University Clark County Extension Master Gardener Program 2022 Application

Note: Interest in Master Gardener training this year is expected to exceed our capacity to accept all applicants. You are strongly encouraged to read the application carefully and complete it thoroughly.

Limited tuition assistance is available. Please request an application by emailing Erika.d.johnson@wsu.edu.

The WSU Clark County Master Gardener Program is a volunteer program for people with a passion for plants, a drive to learn and a commitment to serving the community.

Qualified applicants may have little experience or knowledge about horticulture or they may have a lot, but all should have a desire to learn and to share their knowledge with the community.

The process to becoming a Master Gardener begins with an intensive, fast-paced 12-week training. Training is a combination self-study online course and live presentation/experiential exercise curriculum.

Training sessions occur on 12 consecutive Wednesdays, Aug. 31 through Nov. 10, 2021. Applicants will be expected to be present from 8:45am through 3pm on each of these dates.

Major training Topics include (Sample)

- Training overview, introductions
- Native Plants
- Vegetables in Western WA
- Tree Fruits and Small Fruits
- Plant Problem Diagnosis
- Soils and Small Fruit
- Composting and Plant Propagation
- Weed Management and Pesticides
- Lawns
- Entomology
- Urban Trees/Tree Pruning

Online self-study course:

Trainees commit to weekly homework which includes reading 25 chapters, completing chapter quizzes, viewing on-line videos, and completing a final exam, as well as other short take-home assignments. (Feedback from past trainees indicates time spent each week in self-study to be between 3 and 6 hours.) These assignments prepare trainees for the live weekly presentations. Trainees must pass the quizzes and exam with an 80% or higher grade.

Live presentation/experiential exercise curriculum:

In-class time each week is from 8:45 am to 3 pm including short breaks and a 45-minute lunch break. This portion of training includes in-person speaker presentations, field trips, and learning labs.

Preference will be given to applicants who can commit to attendance at all 12 classes. If you know that you are likely to miss a week or more, you are encouraged to apply during a year you can plan to attend all classes.

Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodation need to contact *Erika Johnson* at 564-397-5738 at least two weeks prior to the beginning of training.

Total cost of training is \$250. A portion (\$175) goes to the local Clark County Extension Master Gardener program and \$75 is payable to WSU through Global Campus for the online portion. (A background check is a requirement for participation in the program. The cost is \$14 and is paid by the volunteer. It requires submittal of personal information including social security number.)

Trainees should have computer experience and feel comfortable navigating the internet and using email. They also need access to a computer for extended periods.

Upon successful completion of training, volunteers begin a one year internship in which they are required to serve a total of at least 50 volunteer hours, on projects such as the answer clinic, tabling at community events, serving as a part of the newsletter team, or teaching students at a school - to name just a few of the many volunteer opportunities.

In subsequent years, veteran Master Gardeners serve a total of at least 35 volunteer hours each year, including 10 hours of continuing education, in order to retain certified status.

Applications will be available starting on March 1 and will be accepted until the applicant pool is deemed sufficient to begin the orientation/interview process. Applications are available on-line starting on that date.

Application Instructions

Step 1: Complete this application fully and email (scan; no photos) or mail it to the address below. Once your application is received you will receive notification of such and will be invited to schedule a small group interview/orientation session at one of several offered throughout the summer, starting in May.

Step 2: Attend a small group interview/orientation session at the Heritage Farm (or via Zoom as necessary due to COVID-19 restrictions). This is a chance for us to get to know you and for you to learn more about us. The process will include other prospective Master Gardener trainees and is informal and relaxed. There will be no trick questions! Be prepared to meet other Master Gardener program applicants and learn more about the program. Bring any questions you have.

Step 3: Register for training. Following your interview/orientation you will receive notification of acceptance to the program. Included in it will be information about how to complete registration for the class as well as complete a background check. Registration is a two-step process. The cost for step one is \$175, payable by credit card, check, or money order.

Step three connects you to the on-line WSU Master Gardener class portion of the statewide curriculum. We access this training on-line and via a USB drive which will be available during training. The cost for this portion of training is \$75 and must be paid with a credit card. The total cost of training is \$250.

Note: We realize this is a bit confusing! We will be prepared to further explain this at orientation this summer. If you have any questions, feel free to call 564-397-5738 or email Erika.d.johnson@wsu.edu. Thanks!

Mail Completed Applications to:

WSU Extension Clark County
Master Gardener Program
1919 NE 78th Street, Vancouver, WA 98665

Note: Dropping off applications in-person is not an option at this time, due to COVID-19 office closures.

Email Completed Applications to:

Erika.d.johnson@wsu.edu

(Keep these 2 pages for your records)

Washington State University Clark County Extension
Master Gardener Program Volunteer Application



Clark County

Master Gardener Program

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

WSU Master Gardeners must be at least 18 years of age. Are you 18 years of age or older?

Yes_____ No_____

Name:

(First)

(Middle)

(Last)

Mailing

Address:

(Street)

(City)

(Zip)

Phone: Day: () _____

Eve: () _____

Email Address:

Training sessions take place each Wednesday, Aug. 31 through Nov. 16 from 8:45am to 3pm.

Are you available from 8:45 am to 3 pm each of the following Wednesdays: Aug. 31, Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 and Nov. 2, 9 and 16? Yes_____ No _____

Training/education completed:

- High school
- Technical/trade school (major studies)_____
- 2-year community college (major studies)_____
- 4-year college (major studies)_____
- Horticulture degrees, training, or certifications (specify)_____

Describe your horticulture /gardening experience: (personal, volunteer or work experience):

Years of horticulture and gardening experience: _____

Specific areas of experience: (please check all that apply)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annuals | <input type="checkbox"/> Herbs | <input type="checkbox"/> Propagation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Perennials | <input type="checkbox"/> Houseplants | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roses | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Container gardening |

List day/times you are not available for volunteer service: (work schedules, anticipated trips, other commitments, etc.)

Do you speak, read or write a language(s) other than English (including American Sign Language)? If yes, please list:

Any other information about your skills and abilities you would like us to have?

Criminal background checks

WSU is legally mandated to conduct criminal background screenings on volunteers who may have unsupervised access to children under the age of 16, developmentally disabled persons, or vulnerable adults.

WSU Extension administration deems it is necessary to conduct such screenings every two years on all volunteers working within our programs. The cost of background checks is \$14 and is payable by the volunteer. Do you agree to undergo background checks every two years? Please check one of the boxes below.

- YES - I DO** agree to undergo a background check at a cost to me of \$14 every three years.
- NO - I DO NOT** agree to undergo a background check every two years. **Checking this box will disqualify you from participating in the program.**

Photo/video release

In the event your picture is taken during a Master Gardener event, do you give WSU permission for that picture or video sequence to be used in WSU brochures, publications or websites? Please check one of the boxes below:

- Yes - I DO** give Washington State University permission to use my photographic and/or video likeness taken during any WSU Extension Master Gardener event or anywhere I am representing WSU Extension Master Gardener Program as a Trainee, Intern, or Certified Master Gardener Volunteer, by any means and without limit for education, demonstration, and promotional purposes.
- NO - I DO NOT** give Washington State University permission to use my photographic and/or video likeness taken during any WSU Extension Master Gardener event or anywhere I am representing WSU Extension Master Gardener Program as a Trainee, Intern, or Certified Master Gardener Volunteer, by any means and without limit for education, demonstration, and promotional purposes.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Personal References

References: List non-family members who have knowledge of your skills, abilities, and qualifications. Individuals should have worked with you on projects and activities and/or have direct experience with or knowledge of your qualifications. Please provide complete addresses and phone numbers.

Name: _____

Relationship Home Phone Work Phone Email

Address: _____

(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Name: _____

Relationship Home Phone Work Phone Email

Address: _____

(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Name: _____

Relationship Home Phone Work Phone Email

Address: _____

(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

I authorize Washington State University Extension to contact the listed references. I understand that I serve at the pleasure of the Washington State University Extension and agree to abide by the policies of Washington State University Extension and individual program areas and to fulfill the volunteer responsibilities to the best of my ability.

Signature: _____

Date: _____