

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER?

The Master Gardener program is one of the most recognized and visible Extension programs in the state. Volunteers represent the University of Minnesota, and citizens depend on them for reliable, research-based information on best practices for home landscapes.

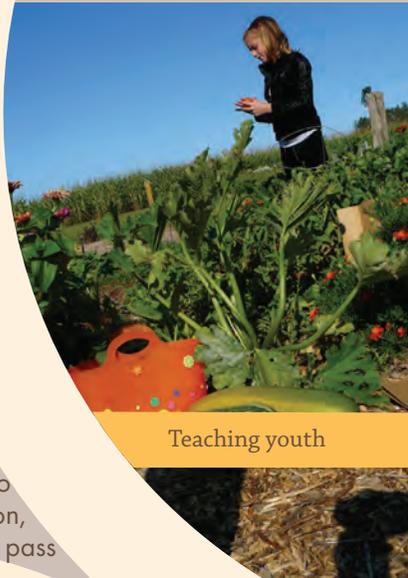
More important than an extensive background in horticulture is an active interest in gardening, learning, and sharing knowledge with others.

To become an Extension Master Gardener volunteer, you must be accepted into your local program. You'll need to complete an application, have an interview and pass a background check.

Once you are accepted, the next step is to take the Master Gardener Core Course and complete an internship.



Plant education

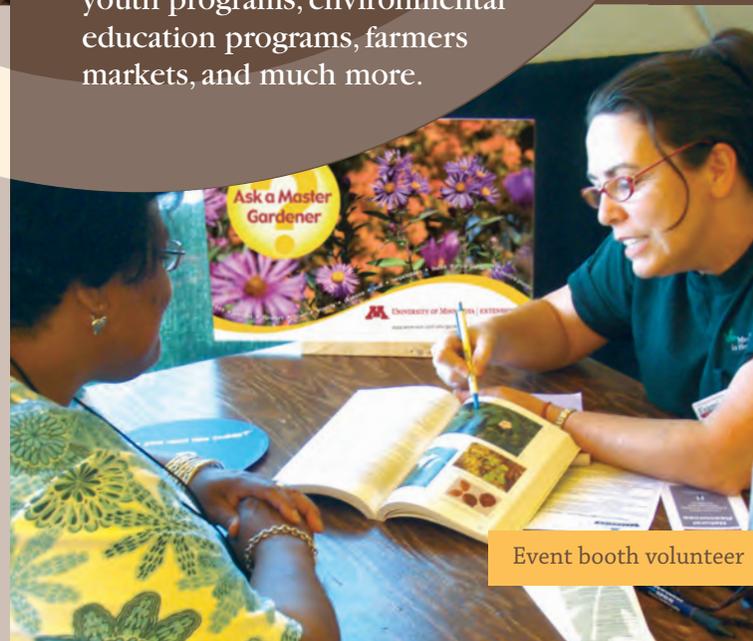


Teaching youth

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Nationally, there are nearly 100,000 volunteer Master Gardeners. They reach about 5 million people each year—the equivalent of more than \$100 million in value to communities.

In Minnesota, the Master Gardener program is coordinated by University of Minnesota Extension and has strong ties to the research and outreach of the Department of Horticultural Science. The activities of more than 2,300 Minnesota Master Gardeners benefit schools, community gardens, youth programs, environmental education programs, farmers markets, and much more.



Event booth volunteer



Community education

 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

Master Gardener Program
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
3675 Arboretum Drive
Chaska, MN 55318



BECOME AN
**EXTENSION MASTER
GARDENER VOLUNTEER**

HOW ARE MASTER GARDENERS EDUCATED?

Education to be a Master Gardener >>

First you'll complete the Master Gardener Core Course. It is taught by Extension educators and faculty, and is available in-person at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and online. Topics include soils, entomology, gardening resources, diagnostics, trees, herbaceous plants, lawn care, plant pathology, and more.

Internship >>

After completing the core course, your internship will continue with 50 hours of volunteer time to be completed within the first year of participation. You'll start the next calendar year as an active Master Gardener in your community.

Continuing education >>

To maintain your active Extension Master Gardener Volunteer status, you will complete at least 25 hours of volunteer time and required continuing education per year. Benefits of being a Master Gardener include being a part of this active and important community of Extension volunteers, connecting to University Extension faculty, and giving back to your community by teaching others about horticulture.

TYPES OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

As a Master Gardener, you'll help connect University of Minnesota research to your community through activities like:

- > Answering horticulture phone lines
- > Working with community groups
- > Diagnosing plant and garden problems at plant clinics
- > Teaching community education classes
- > Setting up horticultural displays
- > Writing articles for local newspapers
- > Staffing booths at the State Fair, and county fairs and farmers markets



Community groups



Staffing plant sale

TO APPLY

Contact your local Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program and request an application. For a listing of local programs, go to www.mg.umn.edu/go/mg-local.

Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
3675 Arboretum Drive
Chaska, MN 55318
612-625-9864

mgweb.umn.edu

Learn more at www.mg.umn.edu

GET MORE INFORMATION

Get more information online at www.mg.umn.edu. If you want a local program coordinator to contact you, send this card to your local University of Minnesota Extension office.

Email: mgweb@umn.edu



Find local office locations at extension.umn.edu/go/mg-local.

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