



## What do Master Gardeners do?

Georgia Master Gardeners provide practical advice and information about gardening. They are educators who love to dig in the dirt! To assist their area Cooperative Extension agent they teach good gardening practices through hands-on demonstrations, educational display gardens and one-on-one consultations.

Though they may initially join the program to learn more about gardening, many Master Gardeners say the friendships they make and the experiences they have while learning and volunteering together are the biggest rewards of the program.



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## What is the Georgia Master Gardener Program?

The Georgia Master Gardener Program is a volunteer training program that connects gardeners with their communities. Since 1979, Georgia Master Gardener volunteers have worked alongside University of Georgia Cooperative Extension agents helping them teach Georgians how to become healthier, more productive, financially independent and environmentally responsible.

### Who are Master Gardeners?

Georgia Master Gardeners are men and women, young and old who possess a wide array of talents, come from diverse backgrounds and represent a variety of professions. They are connected by their passion for gardening and their love for their communities.



### Do you have to know a lot about gardening?

No! Some basic experience and knowledge is preferable but we are looking for enthusiastic people who want to learn and volunteer.



## Master Gardeners of Chattooga County

Chattooga County Cooperative Extension

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# How does the Master Gardening Program work?

If you love gardening and can commit to learning and sharing knowledge and skills through volunteer service, the Georgia Master Gardener Program needs you! To apply for admission to the program, contact the Chattooga County Cooperative Extension. You can also find more information at

[www.extension.uga.edu](http://www.extension.uga.edu)

Many Master Gardeners work right in the Extension Office answering gardening questions on the phone and assisting walk in clients. Along with their gardening knowledge, they contribute valuable skills like photography, writing, editing, event planning, teaching and leadership.



Master Gardeners receive more than 40 hours of classroom and hands-on instruction in horticulture related fields. Classes are taught by University of Georgia Cooperative Extension agents and specialists, local horticulturists and veteran Master gardeners. A minimal registration fee covers instruction, supplies and an extensive training manual.



After successfully completing the classroom portion, participants volunteer 50 hours of service to the UGA Cooperative Extension within the first year of their classroom training. Upon completion, they officially become Georgia Master Gardeners. To remain active, Georgia Master Gardeners must volunteer a minimum of 25 hours of service each year thereafter. Active Master Gardeners are eligible for advanced horticulture training workshops through the UGA Cooperative Extension.

## ***Core classes in the training program include:***

Basic Botany

Basic Entomology

Soils and Plant Nutrition

Weed ID and Control

Basic Pathology

Annuals and Perennials

Plant Physiology

Insects and Diseases of Woody Ornamentals

Planting and Maintaining Ornamentals

Turf Selection and Maintenance



Insects and Diseases of Turf

Vegetable Gardening

Composting, Grasscycling and Mulching

Insects and Diseases of Vegetables

Waterwise Gardening

