



UC MASTER GARDENER OF COLUSA COUNTY APPLICATION INFORMATION LETTER

Thank you for your interest in the UC Master Gardener of Colusa County Program. If you love gardening, learning about gardening and sharing your knowledge with others, the UC Master Gardener program offers you the opportunity to learn and use your knowledge of gardening to serve the community.

In this packet you will find an application and some additional information about becoming a certified Master Gardener. The UC Master Gardener of Colusa County Program is open only to Colusa County residents.

The UC Master Gardener of Colusa County Program is a partnership of the University of California Cooperative Extension Colusa County and the Colusa County Farm Bureau. Master Gardeners are non-paid agents of the UC Cooperative Extension that are part of an organized volunteer program.

The Master Gardener Program is a volunteer organization that provides public education in home gardening and basic horticulture. Each trainee must:

- Have a commitment to community service in Colusa County.
- Be willing to volunteer as an agent of the University of California Cooperative Extension.
- Be fingerprinted and pass a Department of Justice background investigation before the end of training.
- Sign a proof of California Driver’s License and auto insurance, code of conduct, photo release, self-disclosure form and waiver of liability.
- Attend all training classes (1 absence is allowed with prior notification).
- Complete an open book exam with a score of 70% or better.
- Complete training at the office help desk and farmers markets.
- Complete 50 hours of volunteer service and 12 hours of continuing education in the first year after training.

While the intent of the Master Gardener program is to provide service at little or no cost to the public, there is a cost for the training of new Master Gardeners.

- The tuition fee for the training class is \$175. Fee will be collected after your acceptance. Limited scholarship assistance is available.
- The fee includes all lectures, handouts, CA Master Gardener Handbook, name badge, lanyard and loupe.

If you want to apply for the 2014 Master Gardener Training class, anticipated to start January 15, 2014, please complete the attached application. **Application deadline is November 8, 2013.** Keep this information page for reference and return the application:

- UCCE office, 100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste E, Colusa

To be considered for acceptance you must attend a mandatory **“Meet the Master Gardeners” meeting on Friday November 15 from 1-2pm**. At this time the Master Gardener organization and requirements will be fully explained. **Interviews will follow the “Meet the Master Gardener” meeting starting at 2:15.** Please sign up for an interview when you submit your application.



What is the Master Gardener Program?

Master Gardeners are volunteers trained and certified by the University of California Cooperative Extension in the areas of gardening and horticulture. Since 1980 they have been extending information and providing technical assistance to gardeners in California.

What training is given to Master Gardeners?

Master Gardener trainees attend a training program comprising of nearly 100 hours of instruction in plant science and horticulture covering such topics as soils, fertilizers, irrigation, weeds, diseases, insects and other pests, fruit and landscape trees, vegetables and more. Each trainee receives The California Master Gardener Handbook as well as other UCCE publications.

Classes are taught by experts in their fields. They include Cooperative Extension Advisors, specialists from the University of California, and other knowledgeable resource people.

Who becomes a Master Gardener?

Master Gardeners are people of all ages and from all walks of life. They include business people, professionals, educators, retirees, homemakers, and students – all with some experience and knowledge of plants and gardening. Master Gardeners must be enthusiastic, willing to learn and help others, and must be able to communicate with diverse groups of people.

What is the Master Gardener's commitment to the program?

After completing the training and passing a written exam, the new Master Gardener Interns are required to complete a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer service and 12 hours of continuing education within the next 12 months. Master Gardeners are selected on the basis of their ability to fulfill this commitment. In order to retain the title Master Gardener in ensuing years, Master Gardeners must perform 25 hours of volunteer service and complete 12 hours of continuing education per year. Limited scholarship assistance is available.



What kind of volunteer work does a Master Gardener do?

Master Gardeners staff an information desk in the Colusa County Extension office where they answer questions, diagnose plant problems, and give horticultural assistance to the public. Information is also dispersed at farmers markets, fairs and through talks and demonstrations.

How can one obtain information from a Master Gardener?

Telephone the Colusa County Cooperative Extension office to ask a Master Gardener questions about plants and gardening in Colusa County at 458-0570. Samples of insects, weeds, and diseased plants may be taken to either office for diagnosis. Master Gardeners are available to give talks for garden clubs, senior citizen groups, elementary schools, and other community organizations. Visit our website at cecolusa.ucdavis.edu

What is Cooperative Extension?

The University of California Cooperative Extension is part of a nationwide program established by an Act of Congress in 1914, and is part of the Land Grant University in every state. Three levels of government participate in funding Cooperative Extension programs: federal, state and county. The University of California Cooperative Extension works in cooperation with federal and county governments to provide local educational programs throughout California.

The mission of the University of California Cooperative Extension is to develop, extend, and bring about the use of research-based knowledge to improve specific practices and technologies. In addition, Cooperative Extension makes practical information generally available. Cooperative Extension has research support and organizational capacity in agriculture and natural resources, in family and consumer science, in community resource development and in youth development.

University of California county staff is located in county Cooperative Extension offices in nearly every county in California. County staff extends knowledge, conduct field research, and provide leadership in selected Cooperative Extension program areas. Highly trained subject matter specialists, housed on University campuses and in regional offices, conduct applied research, supply information for dissemination by county staff, and provide leadership for state-wide programs.



2014 UC MASTER GARDENER OF COLUSA COUNTY APPLICATION

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE(home) _____ (cell) _____

E-MAIL: _____

GARDENING EXPERIENCE:

What gardening organizations do you belong to?

What kind of gardening experience or garden related training do you already have?

List areas of special interest related to gardening:

Do you work in a nursery or landscape business? _____

Would your gardening philosophy prevent you from advising others on the use of pesticides if the University of California recommended them? _____

VOUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

What other organizations do you belong to:

What kind of volunteer experience do you have?

APPLICABLE SKILLS:

List any experience you have in teaching or public speaking:



Describe your computer skills including your familiarity with word processing, internet research and presentation software:

List any skills or resources you may have that might be useful as a Master Gardener. For Example:

*writing *image editing *word processing *photography
*website design *access to greenhouse *leadership
*public speaking *coordinating events
*other _____

List any languages other than English you speak and/or write fluently:

AVAILABILITY:

What is your current employment status?

Full time _____ Part time _____ Retired _____ Stay at home spouse _____

What times will you be available to volunteer?

Morning _____ Afternoon _____ Evening _____ Weekends _____ Any _____

OTHER:

What hobbies do you have outside of gardening?

Provide your educational background, major course of study and any degrees earned:

What specifically interests you about the Master Gardener program?

Additional comments:

Please submit this completed application no later than November 8, 2013 to:

UCCE Office, 100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste E, Colusa

I wish to be considered for acceptance into the Master Gardener training program offered by the University of California Cooperative Extension, Colusa County.

I understand that if accepted, I will become a certified Master Gardener if I complete all the classes and pass a written examination.

I have read the informational pages provided and agree to comply with the requirements.

Signature _____

Date _____