



## UC MASTER GARDENER OF COLUSA COUNTY APPLICATION INFORMATION LETTER

Thank you for your interest in the UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County. 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 UC Master Gardener. The UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County 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. UC Master Gardeners are non-paid agents of UC Cooperative Extension that are part of an organized volunteer program.

The UC 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. All information provided to the public must be University of California or other university research.
- 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 UC Master Gardener program is to provide service at little or no cost to the public, there is a cost for the training of new UC Master Gardeners.

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

If you want to apply for the 2020 UC Master Gardener Training class, anticipated to start January 24 and end May 8, please complete the attached application. **Please submit this completed application at the mandatory "Meet the Master Gardener" orientation, November 16 at 11 am.**

UCCE office, 100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. E, Colusa, Ca 95932

**Trainings will be every Thursday starting January 24 through May 8. 12:45 to 4:45 (only once a week).**

**Training will take place in Yuba City, at the UC Cooperative Extension office, 142 Garden Hwy, YC.**

**What is the UC Master Gardener Program?**

UC 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 UC Master Gardeners?**

UC Master Gardener trainees attend a training program comprising of nearly 60 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.

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 UC Master Gardener?**

UC 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. UC 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 UC Master Gardener's commitment to the program?**

After completing the training and passing a written exam, the new UC 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. UC Master Gardeners are selected on the basis of their ability to fulfill this commitment. In order to retain the title UC Master Gardener in ensuing years, UC 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 UC Master Gardener do?**

UC 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 farmer's markets, fairs and through talks and demonstrations. All information provided to the public must be based on University of California or other university research.

**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.