

## How To Become A Master Gardener

- Submit application by the deadline
- Be interviewed by peers
- Be fingerprinted and pay class fee
- Complete the class—only allowed to miss 1 class
- Pass the test (open book test)



The learning objective is not to know everything but to understand how to research and use UC-based tools available to us.

## Current Volunteer Opportunities

- Staff Help Desk (HOTLINE)—Mandatory in the First Year
- Staff Booth at Public Events
- Work in our Demonstration Gardens
- Lead Classes and Workshops
- Work on our website and VMS system
- Write articles, flyers, brochures, newsletter, gardening guide, etc.
- Attend our Monthly Meetings w/education
- Organize UC Master Gardener continuing education events
- Volunteer at elementary school gardens
- New projects will be added when appropriate and can be staffed

## Please Note—Master Gardeners

- Do not provide labor or site visits to private homes
- Can not use title of “Master Gardener” as a part of commercial interest
- We *are not* a garden club or society—we *are* volunteers and educators.



*The California Master Gardener Program is part of the University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR), based at the university campuses of Davis, Berkeley and Riverside. Master Gardeners (MG) provide educational outreach from University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE offices throughout California.)*

## Brief History

- **1862** Federal Morrill Act establishes funding for public land grant universities
- **1914** Smith-Lever Act creates the Cooperative Extension Program
- **1972** First Master Gardener program founded in Washington State
- **1980** California Master Gardener programs launched in Sacramento & Riverside
- **Today** 45 states and 4 Canadian provinces have Master Gardener programs
- **Butte County** program started in 2008
  - 104 volunteers currently active
  - Contributed 77,074 volunteer hours to date
  - Acquired 15,515 continuing education hours to date

## UC ANR and Master Gardener Goals 2010–2025

- Promote sustainable horticultural practices and food systems
- Reduce fertilizer and pesticide pollutants
- Protect water quality and quantity
- Reduce landfill materials
- Improve soil quality
- Detect and manage invasive species
- Wildland fire protection



# UC Master Gardeners of Butte County Certification Program

**January–May  
2026**



## Who are the UC Master Gardeners?

*People like you and me.  
Volunteers that are trained*

*by University of California specialists and advisors to teach our community successful gardening practices by using research-based horticultural information. The UC Master Gardener role is primarily that of educator.*

## Certification Program

### Topics

- Botany/Introduction to Horticulture
- Compost
- Control of Weeds in the Garden and Landscape
- Diagnosing Techniques—Garden and Landscape Problems
- Drip Irrigation/Water Application in the Home Landscape
- Home Orchards
- Home Vegetable Gardening
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Introduction to Entomology and Insect Taxonomy
- Landscape Trees
- Living with Oaks/Fire Safety
- Plant Identification
- Plant Pathology
- Soil and Fertilizer Management in the Home Garden
- Turf Management
- Vertebrate Pest Control
- Water-efficient Landscapes

### Saturday Field Trips

- Composting & Vermi-composting
- Pruning

The training program also includes the history of the University of California Cooperative Extension and the UC Master Gardener Program, volunteer requirements for the UC Master Gardener Program, techniques for UC Master Gardener Volunteers, internet resources for staffing the Hotline, and Statewide UC Master Gardener policy and procedure information.

## Important Dates

September 30, 2025	Application Deadline
October	Interviews
Early November	Applicants are selected
Mid-November	Acceptance letters sent*
December 5, 2025	Deadline to pay Class Fee and complete DOJ background check
January 2026	Training Class Begins
May 2026	Training Class Ends

Tentative Schedule: Tuesday afternoons from noon to 4:30 pm, January through May. Time and location TBA.

\*Every effort will be made to accommodate everyone who qualifies; however, training classes are limited in size according to room capacity. As a result some qualified applicants may not be accepted.

## Costs

There is a class fee of \$225 that covers books and course materials. DOJ LiveScan estimated cost is \$40.

## Applications

Applications will be posted online July 1, 2025 at <https://link.ucanr.edu/buttemg-join>.

## UC Master Gardener Responsibilities

- Extend UC research-based information to public
- Learn about sustainable horticultural and related practices
- Focus on Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Strategic Initiatives—Master Gardener goals are determined by the strategic initiatives of UC ANR.

## Skills Needed

- General knowledge of gardening
- Enthusiasm for continued learning
- Desire to share information with others
- Ability to communicate with diverse groups of people
- Time to volunteer
- Basic computer skills

## Volunteer Commitments

### First Year

- Work with Mentor
- 50 hours of volunteer work
- Volunteer on Hotline

### Each Year Thereafter

- 25 hours of volunteer work
- 12 hours of continuing education
- Annual recertification (\$6 annual fee for insurance)

