



UC Master Gardener
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Volunteer Application Form

[UC Master Gardener Program Administrative Handbook, Appendix 2.](#)

The UC Master Gardener Program mission is “to extend research-based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to the residents of California and be guided by our core values and strategic initiatives.” Join us!

County _____ Date of Application _____

Preferred First Name _____ Preferred Middle Name _____ Preferred Last Name _____

Legal First Name _____ Legal Middle Name _____ Legal Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (with area code) _____ Cell Phone (with area code) _____

Email Address (required) _____

Applicants selected for UC Master Gardener Program training must complete a criminal background check (required of all UC agents and volunteers) through the California Department of Justice (DOJ). Prospective participants who have lived outside of California within the last 10 years will need to undergo a national screening. Your response will help us understand which screening instructions to provide. How long have you been a resident of California?

County Use Only							
Driver's License #	Legal Name Provided	Proof of Auto Liability Insurance	Background Check Completed	Orientation	Code of Conduct/Rights & Responsibilities	Date Received	Cash or Check # _____
Expiration Date							Fees Paid \$ _____



UC Master Gardener

University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Please answer the following questions. Attach additional pages if necessary.

1. What excites you about being a UC Master Gardener?
2. How do you plan to use the information you learn in the UC Master Gardener Program to improve and strengthen California communities?
3. Volunteering is the heart of the UC Master Gardener Program. What volunteer groups have you been involved in (e.g. schools, food banks, service clubs, youth groups, community organizations)? What types of activities have you done with these groups (e.g. food distribution, community organizing, translation services)?
4. In order to reach all Californians, the UC Master Gardener Program is working to improve the cultural competency of volunteers and to improve outreach to more communities. Please share any work that you have done, personally or professionally, to make yourself or an organization more inclusive to others.
5. Please describe any gardening, garden education, outdoor education, or online education experience or share why you are interested in gardening.



UC Master Gardener

University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources

6. UC Master Gardener Program volunteers are teachers and communicators. Please list your experience with any of these teaching/communication methods: Public speaking, demonstrations, one-on-one consultations, and writing for print or social media. Please be sure to include both online and in-person communication experience.
7. Please share any non-gardening skills you would bring to the program. Skills could include speaking and writing in languages other than English, experience with community organizing, graphic design or photography expertise, and so on.
8. Like many organizations, the UC Master Gardener Program relies on technology to deliver its mission. Please describe your proficiency with technologies such as e-mail, video platforms (like Zoom), blogs, and so on.
9. UC Master Gardener Program trainees are required to complete a training course. Training dates, times, length, and format (e.g. online, in-person, hybrid) differ by county. Will you commit to attend all sessions? Can you access the internet to complete your training or volunteer service? Following the training, volunteers complete volunteer hours and continuing education hours annually (50 volunteer hours in the first year; 25 volunteer hours and 12 continuing education hours thereafter). Given your understanding of the program, how do you plan to meet these requirements?
10. How did you learn about the UC Master Gardener Program?



UC Master Gardener

University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Demographic information:

The UC Master Gardener Program is open to all. We collect the following demographic information to know if we are reaching all community members. This portion of the application is voluntary and will be used for reporting purposes. The categories listed are those required by UC and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Gender (check one):

- ☐ Woman ☐ Man ☐ Non-binary ☐ Gender not listed ☐ Decline to state

Race/Ethnicity (check all that apply):

- ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native: A person with origins among any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains a tribal affiliation or community attachment.
- ☐ Asian: A person with origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent—including, for example, the peoples of Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- ☐ Black or African American: A person with origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa including, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, and Somali.
- ☐ Hispanic or Latino/a: A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish-speaking culture or origin, regardless of race and/or a person of Latin American culture or origin.
- ☐ Middle Eastern or North African: A person with origins in any of the original peoples of the Middle East or North African, including, for example, Lebanese, Iranian, Egyptian, Syrian, Iraqi, and Israeli.
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: A person with origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
- ☐ White: A person with origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.
- ☐ Race/ethnicity not listed.
- ☐ Decline to state.



UC Master Gardener

University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources

I wish to be considered for acceptance into the UC Master Gardener training program offered by UC Cooperative Extension. I understand that if I am accepted, I will become a certified UC Master Gardener when I complete 18 weeks of classes and achieve a score of 70% on a written examination. Upon acceptance into the training program, I agree to sign the [University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources \(UC ANR\) Adult Code of Conduct](#), adhere to the [UC Master Gardener Program Policy Handbook](#), uphold the [University of California's Non-discrimination commitment](#), and adhere to the [highest ethical standards](#).

In exchange for the training made possible by the UC Master Gardener Program, I will: attend all required training classes, volunteer at least 50 hours with the UC Master Gardener Program within one calendar year of starting the program, regularly submit volunteer hours, and follow all University policies and procedures.

UC Regents retains a non-exclusive license to use images, video, and educational content created by UC Master Gardener volunteers while acting as agents of UC.

I understand that I will be required to submit to a criminal background and fingerprint screening (California Department of Justice Live Scan) prior to the beginning of the training program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this application to the address listed below. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on October 1, 2026 for the 2026 and 2027 classes.

Late applications will not be accepted.

UC Master Gardener Program of Riverside County

Address: 2980 Washington Street

City, CA Zip: Riverside, CA 92504

Phone: 951-955-2594

Email: rmolaiz@ucanr.edu

Website: [UC Master Gardener Program of Riverside County](#)

In compliance with the California Information Practices Act of 1977, the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) requests personal information for UC Master Gardener Program use only. Applicants may inquire how their data is used by contacting the local office and/or the UC Master Gardener Program statewide office (2801 2nd Street, Davis, CA 95618-7779).

The authority provided for the requested demographic information comes under the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 and Article IX, Section 9 of the State of California Constitution. Demographic information collected (including race, ethnicity, and gender) complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Extension Service's reporting requirements. We share this information with the Federal government for Affirmative Action and the Federal Affirmative Action Reports. *Submission of demographic data is voluntary.* The University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources (UCANR) is an equal opportunity provider. Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <https://ucanr.edu/site/anr-employees/nondiscrimination-statements>. Inquiries regarding ANR's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to UCANR, Affirmative Action Compliance Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1343.