



# WHO...

*are Extension Master Gardeners?*

Virginia Master Gardeners are volunteer educators who work within their communities to encourage and promote environmentally sound horticulture practices through sustainable landscape management education and training. As an educational program of Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Master Gardeners bring the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, to the people of the commonwealth.

The VCE Master Gardener program is made up of more than 5,500 active and certified Master Gardener volunteers throughout Virginia who contribute over 350,000 hours of volunteer service each year. Almost 1,000 new volunteers are trained annually.

*Extension Master Gardeners work specifically toward the following goals:*

- Enhancing the environment through sustainable landscape practices
- Using horticulture and landscaping to positively impact youth
- Using horticulture and landscaping to promote community development and economic growth
- Producing food in public and private gardens to improve human nutrition and food security
- Using horticulture to improve the overall quality of life for Virginia's citizens



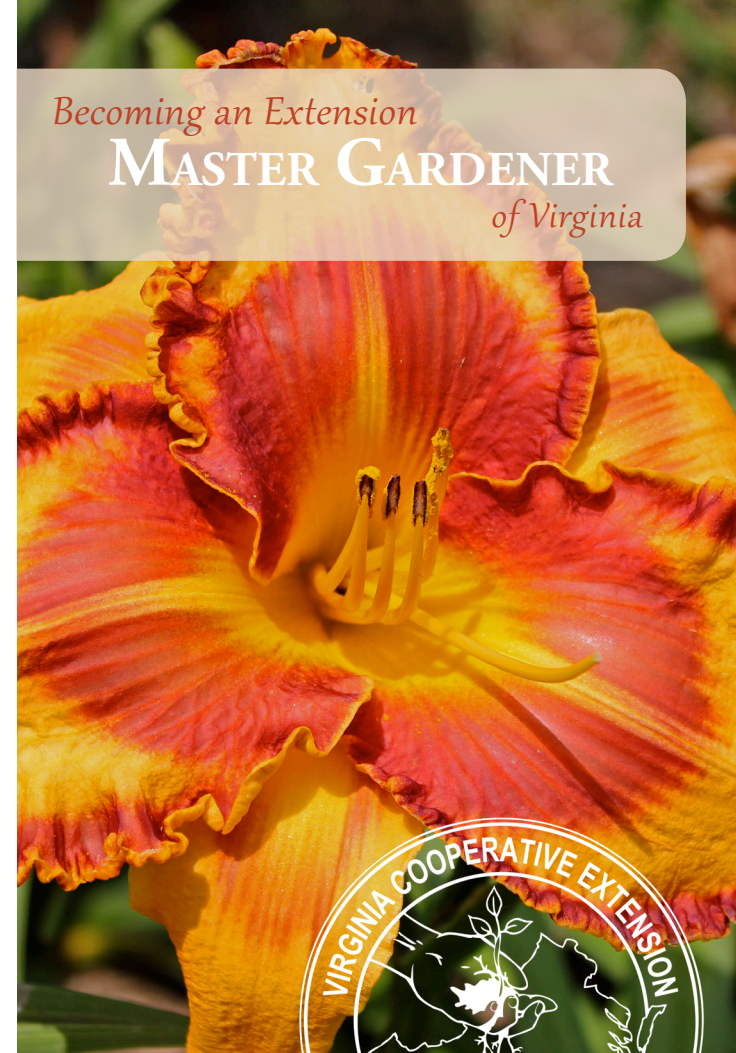
## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please visit us online:

[www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener](http://www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener)

## Or contact:

Office of the State Master Gardener Coordinator  
 407 Saunders Hall, Virginia Tech  
 Blacksburg, VA 24061-0327  
 Phone: (540) 231-2714  
 Email: [freeborn@vt.edu](mailto:freeborn@vt.edu)



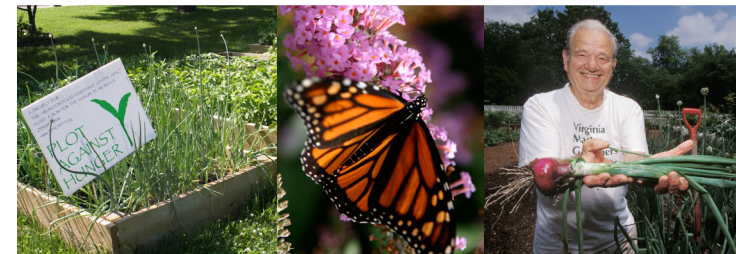
# Becoming an Extension MASTER GARDENER of Virginia



*Sharing Knowledge.  
 Empowering Communities.*



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# How...

## do I become an Extension Master Gardener?

The 50-hour training program provides research-based information on a variety of horticultural and environmental topics. Training sessions are offered annually. Preregistration is required. Contact your local VCE office for more information ([www.ext.vt.edu/offices](http://www.ext.vt.edu/offices)).

# When...

## do I become an Extension Master Gardener?

By completing the classroom instruction, you become a Master Gardener Intern. The title of VCE Master Gardener is granted after you complete a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer service conducting horticultural education programs.

To complete annual recertification you must:

- Contribute at least 20 hours of volunteer service each year
- Participate in at least 8 hours of continuing education



# Why...

## become an Extension Master Gardener?

By sharing sound horticultural knowledge and teaching environmentally responsible landscape practices, Extension Master Gardeners improve communities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

“With the Master Gardener program there’s always more to learn & there’s always more being developed to learn.” - Barbara

Sharing Knowledge.



Empowering Communities.

“The Master Gardener program is great because it combines two things that you love - your community & gardening.” - Jim

Extension Master Gardener training involves a variety of topics:

- Botany
- Soils & fertilizer
- Entomology (insects)
- Propagation
- Vegetables
- Fruits
- Turf
- Woody plants
- Herbaceous plants
- Water quality
- Pruning
- Plant pathology (diseases)
- Plant damage (diagnosis)
- Pesticides
- Landscape design
- Indoor foliage



# What...

## do Extension Master Gardeners do?

- Provide guidance on sustainable landscapes
- Conduct plant clinics
- Oversee teaching and demonstration gardens
- Staff the VCE Master Gardener Help Desk
- Run annual spring educational seminars

Extension Master Gardeners make a difference by participating in specific projects including:

- **Ready, Set, Grow™**, a gardening curriculum for elementary students.
- **Plant-a-Row**, growing produce at community gardens to donate to local food banks.
- **Grass Roots**, helping residents adopt lawn care practices that provide them with healthier turf and protect the watershed from excess fertilizers and pesticides.
- **Horticultural Therapy**, conducting horticulture related activities in nursing homes to enhance quality of life for residents.