



Become a Master Gardener

As Master Gardeners, our mission is to educate and inspire Denton County residents through research-based horticulture, to promote eco-friendly gardens and enduring landscapes that enrich our communities. If you love gardening, want to learn more and would like to share your knowledge with others, the Denton County Master Gardener Association offers the opportunity to learn and serve the community.

Who are Master Gardeners?

Master Gardeners are from all walks of life and volunteer on behalf of Texas A&M University, one of two state land grant universities in Texas. What really sets Master Gardeners apart from other home gardeners is their special training in horticulture. In exchange for their training, individuals who become Texas Master Gardeners contribute time as volunteers, working through their county's Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office to provide horticultural-related information to their communities. Texas Master Gardeners are representatives of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and as such, Master Gardeners follow the research-based recommendations of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

How to Become a Texas Master Gardener

Training Classes

If accepted into the Denton County Master Gardener Program, you will be required to attend a minimum of 70 hours in specialized training that begins in late January and ends in early May. Training classes are held each Tuesday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. ([See the sample class schedule for an overview of the topics covered.](#)) Schedule changes may occur due to the weather or instructor availability. Our training program offers instruction in Earth-Kind gardening, Integrated Pest Management, soil management and water conservation, lawn care, ornamental trees and shrubs, plant nutrition, vegetable and fruit gardening, and native perennial and annual flowers. Classes are held at the Global Spheres Center in Corinth. The address is 7801 S. Stemmons Freeway (IH-35E), Corinth TX 76210.

Additionally, each candidate is required to schedule an interview with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension staff. Upon completion of the application, the interview team will contact the candidate to set the date and time for the interview, which will be held in October after the application deadline and before the selection committee meets in early November.

Experienced, active Master Gardener mentors are paired with trainees to help guide them through successful classroom training and volunteer experiences during their first year.

The tuition for training is currently \$275, which covers the training manual, class t-shirt, badge, field trips, instructor fees, and graduation dinner costs.

Volunteer Commitment

First year Denton County Master Gardener Interns are required to volunteer a minimum of 70 hours to projects provided and supervised by the Denton County Master Gardener Association. A wide variety of projects are available that include becoming involved with youth at area schools, assisting in gardens at senior centers, working on the Denton County Master Gardener Help Desk, speaking to large and small groups interested in

gaining gardening knowledge, or any one of our major community events we host each year. There are plenty of projects to choose from and all are filled with great people invested in learning and sharing their gardening knowledge! More about our current projects can be found on the Denton County Master Gardener "How We Serve" page of our website.

Certification

Participants become certified Texas Master Gardeners after they have completed the first year of required training and volunteer commitment. A graduation dinner and awards ceremony is hosted each January to commemorate and award each successful Master Gardener Intern. Texas Master Gardeners in Denton County maintain their annual certification by attending 10 hours of continuing education and providing a minimum of 20 hours volunteer time each year after their initial training year.

How to Apply

If you have a keen interest in gaining ongoing education in best practices of sustainable gardening, and you want to share that education with your community, the Denton County Master Gardener Program may be for you! We are seeking individuals committed to the training and Internship requirements, with a strong desire to learn and share their knowledge through volunteer service as a representative of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. You can complete the online Master Gardener Application, available each year from August through October.

We invite you to complete the application and come out to our annual "Round Up" informational meeting event in mid-October. The date for our class informational meeting will be posted [on our Become a Master Gardener webpage](#). You will have an opportunity to learn more about the program, meet tenured Master Gardeners, and ask questions to learn if our program is a "best fit" for you.

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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.
