



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
**State Master Gardener-
Texas Superstar® Plant Specialist Training**

Using plants for a healthy Earth-Kind® Landscape

Class 1

Hosted by Bexar County – San Antonio
Training Location at San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX 78209-6635
September 16, 2015 (Wed) - September 18, 2015 (Fri)

Specialist Program Purpose

To provide training whereby Master Gardeners from throughout the Great State of Texas can obtain specialization in Texas Superstar® plant subject matter that would support, complement and expand designed educational outreach programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in their home counties.

What it takes to be a Superstar®

It isn't easy to become a Texas Superstar® plant. Only the toughest, most reliable and best-looking plants make the cut. Every plant earning the Texas Superstar® designation undergoes several years of extensive field trials by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, both part of the Texas A&M System. They must be shown to be super-performing plants under Texas growing conditions. During the field trials, plants receive minimal soil preparation, reasonable levels of water and no pesticides. What does that mean to the average homeowner? It means landscape success with beautiful, proven Texas-tough plants.

Program Description

The Master Gardener- Texas Superstar® Plant Specialist School will provide training for Master Gardeners and County Extension Agents about the Texas Superstar® program in support of home gardeners, educators and youth.

Goal of the State Master Gardener -Texas Superstar® Plant Specialist Training

In an effort to provide training, the Master Gardener -Texas Superstar® Plant Specialist Training was created as an intensive multi-day training that will empower Master Gardeners with knowledge and skills required to effectively support and multiply Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service efforts in promoting Texas Superstar® plants in Earth-Kind® educational programs. The class focuses on the history of the Texas Superstar® plant program, the benefits and landscape usages of these plants in a modern day landscape setting.

Master Gardener Volunteer Requirements

To be eligible for the Master Gardener-Texas Superstar® Plant Specialist Training, an applicant must possess an up-to-date Master Gardener certification or be an employee of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Master Gardener application must be approved by their local Master Gardener Program Coordinator or their County Extension Agent.

Time Commitment

Master Gardener- Texas Superstar[®] Plant Specialist's *will volunteer 20 hours above and beyond their county's current volunteer obligation*. A minimum of 10 hours must be in: (a) Youth and Adult presentations, (b) present information to at least three other groups, or (c) do a Texas Superstar[®] Plant presentation for Master Gardeners; a garden club; a neighborhood association or civic organization. **You will have one (1) full year (ending date is September 18, 2016) for completion of this requirement.** Submit your hours in a timely manner to: David Rodriguez, County Extension Agent-Horticulture, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 212, San Antonio, TX 78230-4818, (210) 467-6575.

Specialist Recognition and Certification

Master Gardeners who fulfill specified training and volunteer requirements will be recognized as a Master Gardener-Texas Superstar[®] Plant Specialist. This certification does not empower the individual with supervisory or administrative authority within their local county programs, but provides them the knowledge to support their Master Gardener Educational Outreach Program.

If completion of the Master Gardener- Texas Superstar[®] Plant Specialist service requirements is by **April 1, 2016**, the Master Gardener will be formally recognized at the annual Texas Master Gardener Conference, at which time, they will be awarded a Master Gardener-Texas Superstar[®] Plant Specialist pin.

Resources Available to Master Gardener -Texas Superstar[®] Plant Specialist

- In-depth and Informative Training
- Educational Materials on Texas Superstar[®] plants
- Direct Access to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Registration

Registration is on a first come/first served basis. Only two (2) Master Gardeners per county, unless space is available by noon Wednesday, September 9, 2015; we may be able to accept applicants from the Waiting List.

Submit Your Application Form with Payment

Application form and payment (**payable to the Hort Acct: 218310-60003**) must be in our office by noon Wednesday, September 9, 2015. Cancellation must be made no later than September 9, 2015 (Friday), as there will be a \$50 surcharge.

Cost

Application fee of \$200 per person includes:

- Texas Superstar[®] resources including: power point presentations and literature
- Two lunches and one dinner
- Snacks, drinks, and other goodies will be provided each day

Travel

Applicants will need to provide their own travel and hotel arrangements. Dress appropriately for outdoor activities (i.e. hat, **close-toed shoes (mandatory)**, and sunglasses).

If you need any special accommodations, contact **David Rodriguez**, County Extension Agent-Horticulturist, at **(210) 467-6575** or **dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu** by September 9, 2015, so we can consider your request.

For more information, contact **David Rodriguez**, County Extension Agent-Horticulturist at **(210) 467-6575** or **dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu**.

Educational programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, age, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.