



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Grayson County Master Gardeners
100 West Houston Street
Courthouse A-G-1
Sherman, Texas 75090

Dear Applicant for the Master Gardener Program,

Thank you for your interest in the Grayson County Master Gardener Training Program. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is an educational organization provided by Federal, State and County governments through the Texas A&M University System.

A minimum of 10 students is required for the class term to proceed. The classes begin September 9th and end October 28th, meeting once a week for 8 weeks, commencing at 8:30 a.m and lasting until 4:30 p.m. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agents, specialists, volunteers, and local experts will teach individual classes.

The Master Gardener Training Program fee is \$225. This fee covers the Texas Master Gardener Handbook, a soil test, annual dues and class materials. Background checks of all Extension volunteers are **mandatory** for the protection of our clientele. Volunteers must adhere to Youth Protection Standards established by the Extension Service and participating organizations. Background check applications are separate from the Master Gardener Application form and must be completed and paid for online (\$12.00). Upon receipt of your application and course fee, we will send instructions on how to accomplish this important step.

Please send the course fee of \$225 with your Application and Volunteer Agreement to the Grayson County Extension Office. Please make checks payable to the *Master Gardener Fund*. If a class term is canceled, your money will be refunded. The fee for online background checks is NOT refundable.

To learn more about our program, you are encouraged to visit the following web pages:

- The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Website at <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu>
- The Texas A&M Horticulture website at <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>
- Grayson County Extension website at <https://grayson.agrilife.org>
- Texas Master Gardener website at <https://txmg.org>
- Grayson County Master Gardener website at <https://txmg.org/grayson/>

We look forward to meeting you.
Sincerely,

Chad Cummings, PhD
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent
chad.cummings@ag.tamu.edu
903-813-4202
Education Committee gcmgeducation@gmail.com



Grayson County Master Gardener Application

I am applying for acceptance into the Texas Master Gardener Training program offered by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Grayson County.

Name: _____

(Please print)

(Signature)

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: (Mobile) _____ (Home) _____

(Work) _____ Circle Preferred Number: Mobile Home Work

Email Address: _____

Birthday: Month _____ Date _____ Year (optional): _____

Emergency Contact name and phone number: _____

Please complete the following questions. Use additional pages if necessary.

1. Are you a resident of Grayson County? If yes, how many years? _____

If no, in what county do you reside? _____

2. How did you learn of the Master Gardener Program?

3. Why do you want to become a Master Gardener? _____

4. List areas of specialization or hobbies (e.g., flowers, vegetables, ornamentals, house plants, community gardening, fruit crops, trees, creating wildlife habitats, organic gardening, etc):

5. Please describe any other skills and/or abilities you have which might be useful in volunteer work (e.g., computer and/or clerical skills, web page design, public speaking, artistry, photography, graphic design, fund-raising, newsletters and media relations, program and/or presentation development, editing, etc.): _____

6. Describe any experience you have in working with each type of community: schools, youth organizations, churches, senior citizens, hospitals, scouts, etc.: _____

7. Please list any group affiliations (garden clubs, plant societies, community gardens, civic organizations, etc.): _____

8. Have you ever been employed in the field of horticulture or gardening? If yes, in what capacity?

Please complete this application with payment and return to:

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Attn: Master Gardener Education Committee
100 West Houston St, Courthouse A-G-1
Sherman, TX 75090**

**For additional information, please visit the web site at
<https://txmg.org/grayson/> or call the Master Gardener Office at 903-813-4204
or e-mail the Master Gardener office at gcmgeducation@gmail.com**

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.



TEXAS MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

I understand that I am trained by The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in the field of Horticulture and **that I am expected to extend research-based information to the public on behalf of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.** I also understand that the principal criteria for acceptance into the program is my availability and willingness to participate in volunteer service. In exchange for the minimum of 50 hours of Master Gardener Training provided by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, I agree to the following:

- ❖ I have computer knowledge and I am able to navigate the internet and use email. I have access to a computer and adequate internet speed, understanding that classes may be offered in one of the following formats:
 - In person at the class location
 - Virtual classes via Zoom type platform
 - A hybrid of the first two formats
- ❖ Attend **all** scheduled classes to attain the 50 hours of Master Gardener Training. If any classes are missed, I understand making up missed hours is at the discretion of the Education Committee.
- ❖ Commit to:
 - a minimum of fifty (50) hours of volunteer service hours to the horticultural programming efforts on at least three approved projects in Grayson County
 - attend one (1) general meeting **during the intern year** to become a certified Master Gardener
- ❖ I understand that in order to maintain active status as a Master Gardener Volunteer after my intern year, I must volunteer: thirty (30) hours annually and gain ten (10) continuing education hours annually. (subject to change by membership vote)
- ❖ Provide a record of this service as directed by the Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator.
- ❖ Comply with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Background Check policy. The background check is to be renewed every three years.

When acting as a Texas Master Gardener volunteer I agree to:

- ❖ Consistently exhibit a positive professional manner toward and about the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the Master Gardener Program, the Master Gardener Coordinator, other Master Gardener volunteers and clients.
- ❖ Carry out and discharge all duties in a responsible and timely manner.
- ❖ Avoid conflict of interests:
 - Not use my Master Gardener status to promote any commercial activity or private business. Volunteer's efforts for their place of employment will not be considered as volunteer service to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

- ❖ Recommend and use (**when functioning as a Master Gardener**) only the Texas A&M AgriLife approved information for any public pesticide, herbicides, fertilizer or cultural practices.
- ❖ Provide my own transportation and pay my own expenses incurred as part of official volunteer activities.
- ❖ Act in accordance with Master Gardener professional standards:
 - Refrain from physical, verbal or sexual harassment/abuse of anyone
 - Refrain from illegal or unsafe behavior
 - Dress appropriately by wearing the approved Master Gardener shirt and nametag at MG functions

In regard to the Master Gardener Coordinators, Master Gardener volunteers will:

- ❖ Recognize the responsibilities of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service staff/Master Gardener Coordinator in setting program priorities, standards and direction. Specific projects for the performance of the volunteer work are determined locally and should reflect local needs.
- ❖ Refer all commercial horticulture inquiries to the Master Gardener Coordinator or other Extension staff.

In regard to the Master Gardener Colleagues, Master Gardener volunteers will:

- ❖ Welcome volunteers from all backgrounds
- ❖ Respect and safeguard individual rights, competencies, safety, and property.

In regard to the clients, Master Gardener volunteers will:

- ❖ Provide quality service to the public without regard to socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

I further understand that the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will:

- ❖ Provide training, supervision, and direction to Master Gardeners through the local county Extension office.
- ❖ Communicate expectations and responsibilities of the program to volunteers.
- ❖ Match volunteer skills and interests with volunteer opportunities within the county.
- ❖ Support Master Gardener volunteers and the local Master Gardener Association.
- ❖ Provide continuing education opportunities.
- ❖ Provide access to Extension horticulture reference materials and reasonable access to Extension professionals.
- ❖ Uphold and cultivate a trustful relationship between staff and volunteers.
- ❖ Reassign and/or terminate, if necessary, any volunteer who does not uphold Texas Master Gardener policies, procedures, guidelines, and/or values.

Signature

Date