

Dear Master Gardener Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Henderson County Master Gardener Program. ***Please read this letter carefully, complete and sign the enclosed application and return it to the address listed on the application by August 22, 2012.*** You will also need to register at Trinity Valley Community College in Athens and pay for the class which is \$135. The text for the class will be the Texas Master Gardener Handbook.

The following will help you better understand the functions and requirements of the Texas Master Gardener Program. ***This program is operated under the authority and guidance of the Texas Master Gardener Association and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. The purpose of the Master Gardener Program is to enhance the ability of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service to provide public education programs in the areas of horticulture and gardening utilizing the volunteer efforts of certified volunteer Master Gardeners and Master Gardener interns.***

The 2012 class of Henderson County Master Gardeners will be limited. First preference will be given to qualified residents of Henderson County. ***Individuals participating in the Master Gardener program are required to attend a 13 week (52 hours) training course in plant and horticultural science and pass a test at the end of the course. You are expected to attend all sessions.***

During your "intern" year, you must also devote a minimum of fifty (50) hours of Master Gardener volunteer service on Master Gardener projects in Henderson County. You will be given a number of HCMG projects to choose from. Some of these hours may be worked on the project of your choice, while others may be assigned according to the needs of the community and the Extension Horticulture program. A specific number of those hours will be required at the East Texas Arboretum, the County Extension office, the HCMG Spring Conference, and other projects of HCMG.

Once you have completed the requirements and been certified, you are expected to maintain your certification and membership through annual volunteer requirements.

We are seeking persons who have some basic experience, skills and/or knowledge in gardening, ornamental horticulture, vegetable gardening and/or related areas. We are also seeking volunteers who would be able to communicate with the public by telephone, personal contact, group programs, or through written correspondence.

Thank you for showing an interest in this exciting volunteer program to expand gardening knowledge and proficiency for the residents of Henderson County. If you have further questions regarding this program, please give me a call at 903-675-6130.

Sincerely,



Rick Hirsch
County Extension Agent
Henderson County

TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE, HENDERSON COUNTY

TRINITY VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MASTER GARDENER APPLICATION

Please read and sign the following agreement:

“I wish to become a Master Gardener in Henderson County. I want to be accepted in the Master Gardener Training Program offered by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Trinity Valley Community College. I understand that in exchange for the training I receive I will volunteer at least 50 hours of my time to the Henderson County Master Gardener program within one year. I understand that I will become a certified Master Gardener upon completion of the training and volunteer work. I also understand that the Master Gardener program requires an ongoing commitment to volunteer in the local community on behalf of HCMG in the years after I become a certified Master Gardener.”

Name (Signature) _____

Print _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (night) _____

E-mail _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

Place of current employment _____

If retired, what was your profession? _____

Can you attend a 13 week training session every Friday from 9:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m., September 7th - December 7th? _____

Do you have any work or volunteer responsibilities, travel plans or other personal activities that might prevent you from attending the training or fulfilling the volunteer requirements during your intern year? Is so, explain

YOUR GARDENING EXPERIENCE

Years gardening experience: _____

Number of years living in Henderson County/East Texas: _____

Type of gardening experience and related training (if any): _____

List areas of specialization or hobbies (e. g. flowers, vegetables, ornamentals, house plants, fruits, youth, etc.):

List any garden clubs or horticultural/plant related organizations with which you are currently affiliated or have been affiliated in the past.

List any present or previous volunteer involvements and length of service.

Some activities may involve public speaking. Do you feel comfortable speaking before a group? _____

What special talents or skills do you have (computer, photography, typing, art, public speaking, writing, financial/bookkeeping, teaching, working with youth, other)?

Please write a short paragraph explaining why you want to be a Master Gardener.

Please mail the completed form to:

Master Gardener Program
Henderson County Extension Office
Courthouse, 3rd Floor, Room 303
100 E. Tyler St.
Athens, TX 75751