



## BECOME A TEXAS MASTER GARDENER

**Who are Texas Master Gardeners?** Master Gardeners are members of the local community who take an active interest in their lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers and gardens. They are enthusiastic, willing to learn and to help others, and able to communicate with diverse groups of people.

What really sets Master Gardeners apart from other home gardeners is their special training in horticulture. In exchange for their training, persons who become Master Gardeners contribute time as volunteers, working through their cooperative Extension office to provide horticultural-related information to their communities.

**Is the Master Gardener Program for Me?** To help you decide if you should apply to be a Master Gardener, if you answer yes to these questions, the Master Gardener program could be for you.

- \* Do I want to learn more about the culture and maintenance of many types of plants?
- \* Am I eager to participate in a practical and intense training program?
- \* Do I look forward to sharing my knowledge with people in my community?
- \* Do I have enough time to attend training and to complete the volunteer service?

**Training.** If accepted into the Master Gardener program in your county, you will attend a Master Gardener training course. Classes are taught by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service specialists, staff, and local experts.

The program offers a minimum of 50 hours of instruction that covers topics including lawn care, ornamental trees and shrubs, insect, disease, and weed management; soils and plant nutrition, vegetable gardening; home fruit production; garden flowers; and water conservation.

**Volunteer Commitment.** In exchange for training, participants are asked to volunteer time to their County Extension program. At least 50 hours of volunteer service within one year following the training is required to earn the title of "Texas Master Gardener."

The type of service done by Master Gardeners varies according to community needs, and the abilities and interests of the Master Gardeners. Some Master Gardeners answer telephone requests for information related to gardening. Others staff plant clinics or displays in shopping malls or community centers. Master Gardeners may speak to local groups and conduct workshops. They may help establish community garden projects, work with 4-H youth, or assist their agent with news or radio releases related to gardening. The Master gardener Coordinator in the County Extension office decides how volunteer time can be best utilized.

Master Gardeners are representatives of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. In all volunteer work related to the program, Master Gardeners follow the research-based recommendations of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. The title "Texas Master Gardener" can be used by volunteers only when engaged in Extension Service-sponsored activities.

**Certification.** Participants become certified Master Gardeners after they have completed the training course and fulfilled their volunteer commitment.

**Background Check.** Background checks will be conducted on Master Gardeners, interns, and trainees who will work directly with youth. The screening is only for criminal background information. Any Master Gardener who does not undergo a background check should sign a statement that he/she will not directly work with youth. You are encouraged, but not required, to consent to the background check so that you can fully participate in all Master Gardener activities.

## Master Gardener Application Form

I wish to become a Master Gardener in McCulloch County. I want to be accepted in the Master Gardener training program offered by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. I understand that in exchange for the training made possible through the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, I will volunteer at least 50 hours of my time to the McCulloch County Master Gardener Program (or to the county of my residence) within one calendar year. I understand that I will become a Certified Master Gardener when I complete the training and volunteer work.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \$175.00

I wish to enroll in the Master Gardener training program but cannot commit to the 50 hours of volunteer time. I understand that I will not become a Certified Master Gardener when I complete the training.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \$200.00

A non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 is payable with this application. Payment in full is due no later than the first class day. Make check payable to Central Texas Master Gardeners Association and mail or deliver with application to McCulloch County Extension Office, 114 W. Main, Brady, TX 76825.

Please initial one of the following statements:

\_\_\_\_\_ I consent to undergo a background check and will complete a Volunteer Application Form E-446.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not consent to undergo a background check. As part of my duties as a Master Gardener of Texas AgriLife Extension, I will not directly work with youth.

Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Night) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ fax \_\_\_\_\_

*\*please indicate with asterisk any information you do not want published in the class roster\**

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**Central Texas Master Gardeners Association**

**McCulloch County**

114 West Main Street

Brady, TX 76825

325-597-1295

<http://txmg.org/centraltexas/>

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