

## **Advanced Master Gardener - Texas Superstars® Training Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services**

### **Advanced Training Program Purpose and information:**

The “Advanced Master Gardener - Texas Superstar®” training program is designed to provide advanced training and resources to Master Gardeners and certify them to be part of a state corps of Texas Superstar® volunteers and educators.

To become a certified “Advanced Master Gardener - Texas Superstar®”, Master Gardeners are required to attend the “Advanced Master Gardener - Texas Superstar®” training to fulfill training requirements and subsequently meet service requirements described below. This certification does not empower the individual with supervisory or administrative authority within her/his local county programs.

“Advanced Master Gardener - Texas Superstar®” training will be comprised of high-quality training combined with hands-on experience covering how and why the Texas Superstar® program began; the colorization of the Texas bluebonnet; education on Texas Superstar® vegetables, trees, annuals and perennials; and how to distinguish superstars from other plants.

### **What is a Texas Superstar®?**

Only the toughest, most reliable and best-looking plants are awarded the Superstar® designation. Each plant 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.

### **Participation requirements:**

To be eligible for the “Advanced Master Gardener - Texas Superstar®” training, an individual must possess an up-to-date Master Gardener certification, or be an employee of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Master Gardener applicants must be approved by their local County Extension Agent.

### **Position Description and Service Requirements:**

The “Advanced Master Gardener - Texas Superstar®” is charged to increase awareness, provide training in Texas Superstar® and facilitate implementation of Texas Superstar® practices on a home/neighborhood/community level.

Service requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Attending the “Advanced Master Gardener - Texas Superstar®” training
- Serving as a local “Advanced Master Gardener - Texas Superstar®” resource in the Extension program for a minimum of one year
- Volunteer 20 hours above and beyond their county’s volunteer obligation
- Assisting with Texas Superstar® training for Master Gardeners and interns
- Assisting in educating Master Gardeners, interns, and the public in Texas Superstars®
- Increasing client awareness and implementation of Texas Superstars® through presentations, training, and mass media efforts (i.e. radio, newspaper, social media, television, and newsletters)

- Submitting a completed “Advanced Master Gardener - Texas Superstar®” Volunteer Training Report Form as directed for certification
- Optional: submit TMGA reimbursement paperwork

**Advanced Training recognition and certification:**

Upon completion of the “Advanced Master Gardener - Texas Superstar®” training and service requirements, the Master Gardener will be awarded an “Advanced Master Gardener - Texas Superstar®” certificate and lapel pin.

**Resources Available to the “Advanced Master Gardener - Texas Superstar®”:**

- Advanced training on the Texas Superstar® program and networking with presenters
- Educational materials on the Texas Superstar® program
- Direct access to Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent – Horticulture and AgriLife Program Specialist