What is the Texas Master Gardener Training Program?

The Master Gardener Program is an educational/volunteer program offered by Texas AgriLife Extension. The program is designed to increase the availability of horticultural information and improve the quality of life with horticultural projects throughout the county. Participants receive 50 hours of training in topics such as:

* lawn care
* trees and shrubs
* disease and weed management
* soils
* plant nutrition
* vegetable gardening
* herbs
* home fruit production
* water conservation
* Earth-Kind
* planting for wildlife
* water conservation & catchment

When is the training course?

The Master Gardener course is usually offered every other year. The next course is in the spring of 2019. Registration will open on October 1, 2018.

Where is the training held?

The classroom training is generally held in Cameron, Texas. Tours may be within or outside of Milam County.

Is there a cost for the training?

There is a registration fee for the training, usually $175. However, if this causes an undue hardship, a partial scholarship may be granted. The registration fee covers the course manual, handouts, soil test, tours, and many course-specific supplies.

Are there requirements after the course completion?

Upon successful completion of the 50-hour course, trainees are classified as interns. They have the remainder of the year to complete the 50 volunteer hour requirement and be certified as Texas Master Gardeners.

How long is my certification valid?

This certification is valid for one year.

How do I maintain my certification?

To maintain certification, members must complete 24 hours of volunteer service, 6 continuing education hours, and attend 4 of the monthly meetings. Also, members must pay annual dues ($20) and meet Milam County AgriLife Extension standards for background checks.

How often does the LRBMG Association meet?

Meetings are held on the 3d Wednesday of each month either during the day or in the evening unless the meeting date conflicts with a holiday. The meetings are held in locations all around Milam County with some tours outside of Milam County.

Is the Master Gardener program for me?

Anyone with a willingness to learn and a desire to help others can become a Master Gardener. You need no prior knowledge of gardening. The Little River Basin Master Gardener Association graduated its first class in 2005. We have monthly programs, interesting field trips, ongoing training and lots of fun and fellowship. Whether it’s reaching out to youth with the Junior Master Gardener Program, working in the Demonstration Gardens or answering the public’s gardening questions, your life will be enriched through this excellent program.

Who do I contact if I want more information on the Master Gardener program?

If you would like more information about the Master Gardener Program, please email LRBMGA@gmail.com or call the Milam County AgriLife Extension Office at 254-697-7045.

How do I get my soil tested? Stop by the Milam County Extension Office to pick up a soil sample bag and instruction.

New to Milam County?

Let us be the first to welcome you to one of the best counties in Texas! Before you turn the spade to plant your garden, we recommend five basics:

1) Plan your garden or planting area

2) Evaluate the location for the sun (no less than 6 hours daily unless you are planting a shade garden) and water availability

3) Take a soil sample and have it test (see soil sample under links or FAQs)

4) Prepare your soil based on the sample

5) Plant items that are native or well adapted to this area.

Gardening Resources for Central Texas

Vegetable Selections for Milam County: <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/veg_variety/select.php>

Fruit and Nut Resources <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/fruit-nut/>

Vegetable Resources <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/>

Easy Gardening Resources <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/easy-gardening-series/>

Gardening & Landscaping <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/browse/featured-solutions/#gardening>

Food Preservation (Univ of GA) <http://nchfp.uga.edu/publications/publications_uga.html>

Helpful Links:

Texas Master Gardener <https://mastergardener.tamu.edu>

EarthKind <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/>