



Dear Prospective Master Gardener,

We are pleased that you are interested in participating in the Randall County Master Gardener Program.

The intent of the Texas Master Gardener program is to make you a better gardener, and in the process make you a Master Gardener volunteer. The program is an educational activity offered by Texas AgriLife Extension, part of the Texas A&M University system. The purpose of the Master Gardener program is to extend AgriLife Extension's capacity to provide horticultural, gardening, and small-scale food production information and participate in horticultural projects throughout the community.

This program, offered through the Randall County AgriLife Extension, has sponsored various projects such as: Tri-State Fair Exhibit, *Gardenfest*, *Gardening with the Masters*, public garden tours of personal gardens designed and maintained by local Master Gardeners, and the design and continuing maintenance of approved demonstration gardens located in Potter and Randall Counties. The prerequisite for acceptance into the Master Gardener program is that you submit an application and a \$125.00 tuition fee. Applications are due by January 24, 2022. **With the limitation of 20 interns in this year's class, it is suggested that the application be completed as quickly and thoroughly, as possible.**

As an intern in the Master Gardener program, you will receive a resource manual developed by the AgriLife Extension. You are required to attend 50 hours of classroom instruction and to volunteer 50 hours of service to earn the title of Texas Master Gardener. All Interns must pass a background check. The success of the program is dependent on your commitment to the 50 hours of volunteer service.

The title, "**Master Gardener**", may be used only by individuals trained and certified in the Texas Master Gardener program. Master Gardeners assist the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The title designation of "**Master Gardener**" may only be used when serving as an unpaid participant in the Texas Master Gardener program, through the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Master Gardeners may not use their title in any form of paid advertisement. When an individual ceases active participation with the organization, the designation as a Master Gardener becomes void.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, most classes will be held online via Zoom. The training program begins **January 27th**. Classes are usually twice a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) through early April. Occasionally, a class may be conducted on a Saturday. Remember the application deadline is **January 24, 2022**.

Thank you for your interest,

Dr. J.D. Ragland, agent
Texas AgriLife Extension, Randall County

Ginger Porter, President
Randall County Master Gardeners Association

<p>Note that it is not necessary for you to reside in Randall County to be a member of the Randall County Master Gardeners.</p>

RANDALL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER APPLICATION

The Randall County Master Gardener organization is an extension of the Texas A&M AgriLife system, with education and service to the community as two of its main goals. If you have an interest in gardening and would like to participate in serving the Panhandle in garden-related projects, please complete this application to apply for the training program and return it to the designated address by **January 24, 2022**.

If accepted into the program, you commit to attend the required classroom instruction and to volunteer a minimum of 50 service hours on approved Master Gardener projects within twelve months of class completion. After the first year, you will be required to continue certification and volunteer hours on Master Gardener projects to maintain certified Master Gardener status. All applicants must pass a background check.

Classes will begin January 27. Once accepted into the program, you will receive a class schedule including dates and times for each class. The association has a mentor program. Each intern will be paired with a certified Master Gardener offering additional support during training.

Print Name: _____ Preferred Name for nametag: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Work (optional): _____

E-mail: _____

(Please print this accurately & legibly since the primary communication will be via e-mail)

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

How did you learn about the Master Gardener program? _____

Years of gardening experience: _____

Type of gardening experience and related training: _____

What is your current/past employment? _____

Briefly summarize your work experience: _____

What previous volunteer experience do you have? _____

What are your special interests related to gardening: (e.g. lawns, flowers, vegetables, ornamentals, houseplants, trees, landscaping, water conservation, etc.)?

Please list group affiliations, such as garden clubs, community gardens, plant societies, or other volunteer organizations.

List any special skills you have which would be useful to Master Gardener program (such as photography, public speaking, journalism, fund raising, teaching, computer skills, etc.)

Have you applied to be a Master Gardener previously? Y/N _____ When? _____ Where? _____

What are your expectations of being a Master Gardener volunteer? (Please be as detailed as possible)

Part II: MASTER GARDENER AGREEMENT

I wish to become a Master Gardener in the Randall County Master Gardener program, which is an extension of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. I understand that in exchange for the training, I will volunteer at least 50 hours of my time to the Randall County Master Gardener Projects and Programs within twelve months of class completion. I understand that I will become a Certified Master Gardener of Texas when I complete the training and volunteer work. I further understand that with this certification I will be expected to uphold and practice the responsibilities and behaviors set forth in the Texas Master Gardener Guidelines and the Bylaws and Guidelines set forth by the Randall County Master Gardeners.

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date _____

Please complete this application and return by January 24, 2022 along with the \$125.00 classroom fee to “Randall Master Gardeners” at the following address. Applicants may be contacted for an interview prior to final selections being made for the 2022 class. Fee is non-refundable once classes have started.

Randall County Master Gardeners
ATTN: Intern Class Coordinator
200 N. Brown Road
Canyon, TX 79015

For additional information, please contact:
Diane Sissom at 806-220-7713, or **Sharon Littau** at 806-359-1500.

Revised 9/30/2021