



Healthy South Texas
Master Gardener Growing Healthy Communities Specialist Training
Implementing Learn, Grow, Eat, Go! and Growing and Growing Nourishing Healthy Communities

June 15-17, 2016
Corpus Christy Extension and Research Center

Master Gardener Specialist Program Purpose:

To provide advanced training whereby Master Gardeners can obtain specialization in areas that support or expand designated educational programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

Growing Healthy Communities:

In an effort to reduce preventable diseases the A&M AgriLife Extension Service along with other partners have implemented a program whose first phase of the initiative is "Healthy South Texas." This is a pilot program that aims to reduce preventable diseases by 25 percent in South Texas by 2025 through educational efforts. Growing Healthy Communities is an educational program to aid in the goals of Healthy South Texas.

Growing Healthy Communities Specialist training:

The Master Gardener Growing Healthy Communities Specialist program is designed to train and certify Master Gardeners to become part of a state corps of community garden educators whose goal is to teach others gardening practices to produce healthy food options and increase physical activity.

Participation Requirements:

To be eligible for Master Gardener Growing Healthy Communities Specialist 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.

Certification Requirements:

To become a certified Master Gardener Growing Healthy Communities Specialist, Master Gardeners are required to attend the Master Gardener Growing Healthy Communities Specialist training and provide 20 hours of service as described below. Training activities during the course will empower Master Gardeners to complete these service requirements.

Service Requirements:

Conduct 1 or more train the trainer events
Conduct and evaluate 1 LGEG program or Conduct 1 GNHC program
Prepare an interpretation of the programs

Specialist Recognition and Certification:

Upon completion of the Master Gardener Growing Healthy Communities Specialist service requirements, the Master Gardener will be formally recognized at the annual Texas Master Gardener Conference, at which time they will be awarded a Master Gardener Specialist certificate and lapel pin. Paperwork must be filed in the State Master Gardener office to receive recognition.