



## Tree Care Specialist Training Program

### **Program Purpose:**

The Tree Care Specialist Training program will provide advanced training for Master Gardener Volunteers. Participants will gain knowledge and skills in the areas of tree selection, planting, training, pruning, problem diagnosis and remedies.

### **Program Description:**

This Master Gardener Specialist Training was developed to provide advanced, intensive training in the area of creating and maintaining a healthy landscape of ornamental and shade trees. Participants seeking Specialist Certification will be encouraged to use the knowledge and skills gained during this training to support the development of educational programs on tree planting and care in their home county.

### **Participation Requirements:**

Eligible participants should be a Certified Master Gardener Volunteer in good standing and receive approval from their County Extension Agent/Master Gardener Coordinator. Employees of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are also eligible to attend.

### **Time Commitment & Certification:**

To receive Tree Care Specialist certification, participants are required to serve a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer service under the direction of their County Extension Agent or Master Gardener Coordinator within one year of completing the training.

### **Training and Service Requirements:**

1. Complete the Tree Care Specialist Training
2. Work with your County Extension Agent to devise a plan of volunteer service
3. Serve as a local Master Gardener Tree Care Specialist in the Extension program
4. Assist in educating Master Gardeners, Interns, and the public in tree care
5. Submit a completed Tree Care Specialist Volunteer Report Form as directed

Ideas for volunteer work in tree care include but are not limited to: training Master Gardener interns and certified Master Gardener volunteers, assisting with public education programs, teaching youth about trees, developing educational demonstrations, and creating PowerPoint presentations, fact sheets or online resources for public education.

### **Specialist Recognition and Certification:**

Upon successful completion of the Earth-Kind Research Specialist training and service requirements, the participant will be recognized at the annual Texas Master Gardener Conference with a Master Gardener Specialist Certificate and lapel pin.