



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Collin County  
825 N. McDonald Street, Suite 150  
McKinney, Texas 75069  
972-548-4232

Dear Applicant for the Master Gardener Training Program,

Thank you for your interest in the *Collin County Master Gardener Training Program*. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is an educational organization provided by the Federal, State and County governments, through the Texas A&M University System. Because the size and scope of our programs, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service trains volunteers to assist in reaching the citizens of Texas with research-based information.

The Master Gardener Program is a volunteer development program offered by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and is designed to increase the availability of horticultural information and improve the quality of life through horticultural projects. Program objectives are implemented through the training and use of local volunteers, known as Master Gardeners. They aid Extension by conducting school garden projects; answering telephone requests for horticultural information; establishing and maintaining research and demonstration gardens; working with special audiences in the community; and designing and implementing community improvement projects, as well as coordinating Master Gardener projects. The Master Gardener program is made up of certified volunteers who have been trained by Extension and meet the required volunteer service hours each year. While participants will benefit personally in this training, it should be understood that the principal criteria for acceptance into the program is the availability and willingness of the applicant to volunteer.

The training covers topics such as: the proper environmental and cultural practices in the cultivation and management of ornamental and flowering plants, the production and care of vegetables, fruits and nuts, the care and maintenance of turf and landscape plants, and a general understanding of the sciences of Plant Pathology, Entomology, Botany, and Soils. The training will consist of 12 classes, each Tuesday from September 2nd, 2014 through November 18th, 2014. There will be more than 65 hours of training provided to you during this training program. Extension Agents, Extension specialists, Master Gardeners, and regional experts will teach individual classes. Each class will start at 8:30 a.m. and will last until 4:00 p.m. with one hour for lunch. In order to meet the requirements to become a Master Gardener you are required to be present at each class for the entire class time. All classes will be held inside The Landing at the Myers Park and Event Center in McKinney, Texas. Please see the flowing website for location information: <http://www.co.collin.tx.us/parks/myers/landing.jsp>

In return for 65 hours of training, you are required to contribute a minimum of 65 hours of volunteer service with an approved Master Gardener project during the year following the training. Fifteen hours of the total volunteer service hours must be earned answering questions

related to horticulture at the Horticulture Help Desk located at the Extension Office in McKinney. Our interest in selecting individuals for this program goes beyond the first year of service. We need people who are willing to commit to continued participation as experienced Master Gardeners through annual re-certification. Re-certification requirements are 25 hours of volunteer service and 6 hours of re-certification training for each calendar year.

The Master Gardener Training Program fee is \$200 for the Training Class. The Master Gardener Handbook, extension fact sheets, expert teachers, and other class materials will be provided. Background checks of all Extension volunteers are mandatory for the protection of our clientele. Volunteers must adhere to Youth Protection Standards established by the Extension Service and participating organizations.

The training class will be limited to approximately 50 participants. Selection will be based on the date we receive your application and the information in application. A full refund will be provided to those not selected for the program. **Please send the course fee of \$200 with your Application, Volunteer Service Agreement, Volunteer Release, and background check authorization forms to the Collin County Extension Office by Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Please make checks payable to Horticulture Program.**

Your next step in becoming a Master Gardener will be to attend an orientation meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. This informational meeting will be held at the Landing at Myers Park and Event Center. We will explain the mission and purpose of the Texas Master Gardener Program more in-depth. This meeting will also provide an opportunity to visit with current Master Gardeners. Feel free to stay and attend our monthly meeting, which is held at the same location from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please RSVP by contacting the Extension Office.

I encourage you to visit the following websites:

<http://agrilife.org> , <http://collin.agrilife.org>, <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>,  
<http://earthkind.tamu.edu>, <http://www.texasmastergardeners.com/>, <http://www.ccmgatx.org>.

Please contact the Extension Office with any questions at 972-548-4233.

Sincerely,

Greg Church, Ph.D.  
County Extension Agent - Horticulture  
Master Gardener Coordinator  
Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Collin County



### Collin County Master Gardener Application

I am applying for acceptance into the Texas Master Gardener Training program offered by Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Collin County. I understand that in exchange for the training made possible through Texas AgriLife Extension Service, I agree to volunteer 65 hours of my time to the Master Gardener Program during the year following completion of the training course. In addition, I agree to serve 15 hours of my total volunteer hours at the Master Gardener help desk. I understand that I will become a certified Texas Master Gardener when I complete both the training and the volunteer service within the first year. I agree to attend all Master Gardener Training classes and stay for duration of class time. I have access to a computer and printer to download and print assignments for class. I agree to pay the fee of \$200 for the training course and understand that refunds are not available after September 2nd, 2014.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Night) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact name and phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical conditions we should know about (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following questions. Use additional pages if necessary.

1. Are you a resident of Collin County? If yes, how many years? : \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did you learn of the Master Gardener Program? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do you want to become a Master Gardener? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Any formal gardening related training? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Please describe any other skills and/or abilities you have which might be useful in volunteer work (e.g., computer and/or clerical skills, web page design, public speaking, artistry, photography, graphic design, fund-raising, newsletters and medial relations, program and/or presentation development, editing, etc.):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Are you currently employed? If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Duties: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Have you ever been employed in the field of horticulture or gardening? If yes, in what capacity? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

8. To become a Master Gardener is important to me because:

1= least important                      5=most important

- |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. I will be able to increase my knowledge and skills as a gardener.               | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b. I will have the opportunity to meet and share information with other gardeners. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c. I will be certified by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.                    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| d. I will gain gardening experience that can help me get a job.                    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| e. I will be able to improve the environment.                                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| f. I will be able to improve my community.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| g. I will be able to provide a service to people in my community/neighborhood.     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| h. I will be recognized by people in my community.                                 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| i. I will be able to work with youth in my community.                              | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

9. Please indicate your degree of interest in the areas listed below.  
 Mark "H" for high, "A" for average, and "L" for low.

|                                   |       |                      |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| Answering telephone inquiries     | _____ | Computer work        | _____ |
| Clerical work                     | _____ | Newsletter           | _____ |
| Writing/editing articles          | _____ | Fund-raising         | _____ |
| Photography                       | _____ | Plant variety trials | _____ |
| Developing displays               | _____ | Speaking engagements | _____ |
| Garden Installation & Maintenance | _____ | Graphic design       | _____ |
| Landscape Design                  | _____ | Physical Labor       | _____ |
| Research for program development  | _____ | Specialized training | _____ |

10. Please provide additional comments:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this application and return it to:

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
Attn: Master Gardener Coordinator  
825 N. McDonald, Suite 150  
McKinney, TX 75069**

<http://collin.agrilife.org>

<http://ccmgatx.org>

[mgcollin@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:mgcollin@ag.tamu.edu)

**For additional information, please call the Extension Office  
(972) 548-4232 or metro (972) 424-1460 x 4232  
or e-mail the Master Gardener office at [mgcollin@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:mgcollin@ag.tamu.edu)**

**Complete applications are due in the Collin County Extension Office by August 1st, 2014**

Please make plans to attend an orientation that will be held 10:00 am, July 24th at the Myers Park and Event Center.  
Individuals selected for the program will receive official notification by e-mail.

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Extension programs serve people of ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. A member of the Texas A&M University System and its statewide Agriculture Program.