



The Texas Master Gardener Program



The Texas Master Gardener Program is a volunteer development program of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Master Gardener volunteers receive in-depth horticultural training. In return, they provide volunteer service through AgriLife Extension by delivering horticultural education to their communities. Program participants should be able to communicate with the public by telephone, personal contact, as a speaker or through written correspondence. Master Gardener volunteers serve as “horticultural docents” supervised by AgriLife Extension personnel who assign, review, and facilitate volunteer work.

Step 1: To gain the title of Master Gardener Intern, a Trainee

- receives a minimum of fifty (50) hours of instruction
- passes an examination

The volunteer aspect of the Master Gardener program allows individuals to dedicate their time and talents to educate and enhance their local community utilizing the science and art of horticulture.

Step 2: Master Gardener Interns:

- New Interns give 50 hours of **volunteer** service in AgriLife Extension initiated projects in Taylor County and surrounding areas within **one year** of their **training date**
- are certified as a Master Gardener when all requirements are met

Step 3: Re-certification of a Big Country Master Gardener is an annual process that requires:

- 18 Volunteer Community Service hours each year
- 6 Continuing Education hours each year

Important information:

- **Cost:** Cost of the training is \$200.00 payable by February 9, 2023, following acceptance into the Big Country Master Gardener Intern Program.
- Classes run February 9th through April 25th. **See page 5 for tentative schedule.**
- All classes will be at the Taylor County AgriLife Extension office on the Taylor County Fairgrounds
- **Minors:** You must be 18 or older to take the course, unless accompanied by a parent who is also taking the course.
- **Refunds:** No refunds will be given after the beginning of the first session.

Please contact the Taylor County Extension Office with any questions.

Dawnyel Luckie
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
1982 Lytle Way
Abilene TX 79602
dawnyel.luckie@ag.tamu.edu
325-672-6048



Big County Master Gardener Training Application 2023

Application Deadline: February 1, 2023

Training begins February 9th and runs through April 25th. Class size is limited to 20 members. The cost of the training is \$200.00, payable before the start of the first Session (upon acceptance into the program). A background check is required on all applicants participating in the Master Gardener Intern program. All classes will be held at the Taylor County Extension office located at 1982 Lytle Way in Abilene. See page 5 for a tentative schedule and topics covered.

1. Applicant's Information:

Legal Name: (please print) _____ Preferred Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

2. Why do you want to become a volunteer in Extension's Big Country Master Gardener Association

volunteer program? (Useful training, increase skills/knowledge, give back to the community, personal accomplishment, creative use of time, etc.)

3. What is your gardening/horticulture and related fields experience and/or training?

Include experience or knowledge of vegetables, herbs, roses, composting, propagation, turf, trees, fruit, nuts, perennials, etc. What is your gardening story? – When did you start gardening, have you worked professionally in horticulture or a related field, what is your favorite thing about gardening, etc.

4. How did you learn about AgriLife Extension’s Big Country Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program?

5. Volunteer and/or community service:

List the organization and what you do/did: (school/youth group/church/hospital/civic group)

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

6. Are you presently employed, and if so, where?

7. Times available for volunteering (put an X in the areas you would normally be available):

| | Morning | Afternoon | Evening |
|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Monday | | | |
| Tuesday | | | |
| Wednesday | | | |
| Thursday | | | |
| Friday | | | |
| Saturday | | | |
| Sunday | | | |

8. Please answer each of the following questions on the scale of 0= Not Important to 5= Most Important (this is not a ranking question)

- I will be able to increase my knowledge of gardening. _____

- I will be able to gain new skills as a gardener. _____

- I will be able to provide a service to those in my community/neighborhood. _____

- I will have the opportunity to share my knowledge with other gardeners. _____

- I will gain a great deal of personal satisfaction. _____

9. Statements of agreement

- I wish to apply to the Big Country Master Gardener Association, sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.
- Once accepted, I understand I must pay a \$200 training fee for materials and speakers by February 9, 2023.
- I understand there are no refunds after the start of the first session.
- I understand I must attend at least 10 of the 12 training sessions plus attend and pass the final exam to become a Master Gardener **INTERN**. I then must complete 50 hours of volunteer work with the Big Country Master Gardener Association in a twelve-month time period, before becoming a **Certified Master Gardener**.
- I understand that the Master Gardener program is a program sponsored by the Taylor County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.
- I understand that as a Certified Texas Master Gardener, I represent the Taylor County office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and The Texas A&M System and will adhere to their policies and guidelines.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please return completed application to Taylor Co. Extension Office (Pages 2-4 only)
1982 Lytle Way
Abilene, TX 79602
or e-mail to: Dawnyel.luckie@ag.tamu.edu

Questions may be directed to the Taylor County Extension office at 325-672-6048 or via e-mail to: dawnyel.luckie@ag.tamu.edu.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in any AgriLife Extension activity are encouraged to contact the Taylor County Extension Office to discuss specific needs.

Educational programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating





Big Country Master Gardener Spring Training 2023

Tentative Schedule

(Dates are subject to change due to speaker availability)

| Session | Date | Topics |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Session 1 | Thursday, February 9 6-9 PM | Orientation / Tools & Cleaning |
| *Session 2 | Monday, February 13 6-9 PM | Plant Growth & Development |
| Session 3 | Saturday, February 18 9-1 PM | Earth Kind Program |
| Session 4 | Thursday, February 23 6-9 PM | Vegetable & Herb Gardening |
| Session 5 | Thursday, March 2 6-9 PM | Fruit Tree & Nut Program |
| *Session 6 | Thursday, March 9 6-9 PM | Turfgrass Program |
| *Session 7 | Thursday, March 23 6-9 PM | Soils & Soil Fertility |
| Session 8 | Tuesday, March 28 6-9 PM | Landscape Principles |
| Session 9 | Saturday, April 1 9-4 PM | Plant Propagation |
| *Session 10 | Thursday, April 6 6-9 PM | TBA |
| Session 11 <i>Date Change</i> | Thursday, April 13 6-9 PM | Plant ID / Plant Sale Prep |
| Session 12 | Thursday, April 20 6-9 PM | Plant Pest Problems (Entomology) |
| Graduation | Tuesday, April 25 6-9 PM | Final Exam / Graduation |

*** Denotes CEU training for existing certified Master Gardeners**

Updated 12/19/2022