



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 during the training.
- passes an examination at the end of training.

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**:

- are required to give 50 hours of **volunteer** service in Big Country Master Gardener approved projects in Taylor County and surrounding areas within **one year** of their **training completion date**.
- are not certified as a Texas Master Gardener until all requirements are met.
- will receive 1 full year of membership with Big Country Master Gardener Association once volunteer service hours are completed. (\$45 value)

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 of the training is \$250.00 payable by February 6, 2024, following acceptance into the Master Gardener Program.
- Classes run February 8th through April 30th. **See page 5 for tentative schedule.**
- All classes will be at the Taylor County AgriLife Extension office on the Taylor County Fairgrounds.
- 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.
- **Meet and Greet** – Come ask questions at our meet and greet on Tuesday, January 16th 6 pm – 7 pm at the Taylor County Extension office.

Please contact the Taylor County Extension Office with any questions at 325-672-6048.

Dawnyel Luckie

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

1982 Lytle Way

Abilene TX 79602

dawnyel.luckie@ag.tamu.edu



Big County Master Gardener Training Application 2024

Application Deadline: January 25th, 2024

Training begins February 8th and runs through April 30th. Class size is limited to 25 members. The cost of the training is \$250.00, 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 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 Master Gardener 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. 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 hear we were accepting applications this year?

Friend _____ Radio _____ Facebook _____ Newspaper _____ Website _____ E-mail _____

5. Volunteer and/or community service: (Limit to within the past 5 years)

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. When are you most likely available to volunteer? Put a Yes in box if likely available.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Mornings							
Afternoons							
Evenings							

8. Please rate the below statements on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = Not Important to 5 = Most Important)

- I want to increase my knowledge/skills of gardening. _____

- I want to make friends with like-minded people. _____

- I want to be part of a volunteer service organization. _____

9. Statements of agreement

- I wish to apply to the Big Country Master Gardener Association, sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

- If accepted, I understand I must pay a \$250 training fee for materials and speakers by February 6, 2024.

- 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 understand that after I finish the training, I must then complete 50 hours of volunteer work with the Big Country Master Gardener Association in a twelve-month time period, before becoming a **certified Texas 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 and 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 this completed application to Taylor Co. Extension Office (Pages 2-4)
 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. We will be sending notification via e-mail on Friday, January 26th to let you know if you've been accepted into the program. Please be sure to check your e-mail between 4pm and 6pm.

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 2024

Tentative Schedule

(Dates are subject to change due to speaker availability)

Session	Date	Topics
Session 1	Thursday, February 8 6-9 PM	Orientation *Intro to Soil
Session 2	Tuesday, February 13 6-9 PM	Plant Growth & Development *Compost
Session 3	Thursday, February 22 6-9 PM	*Fruit Trees, Berries & Pecans
Session 4	Thursday, February 29 6-9 PM	*Turfgrass Program
Session 5	Thursday, March 7 6-9 PM	Vegetables *Herbs
Session 6	Tuesday, March 19 6-9 PM	*Integrated Pest Management
Session 7	Saturday, March 23 9 AM - 4 PM	*Plant Propagation
Session 8	Tuesday, March 26 6-9 PM	*EarthKind
Session 9	Thursday, April 4 6-9 PM	Landscape Principles
Session 10	Thursday, April 11 6-9 PM	Plant ID Plant Sale Prep
Session 11	Thursday, April 18 6-9 PM	Entomology
Session 12	Saturday, April 20 9 AM – 2 PM	Hands on Planting
Final Exam	Tuesday, April 30 6-9 PM	Final Exam

* Denotes CEU training for current certified Master Gardeners/2023 Interns

Rev. 121523