



Course Requirements

Training consists of on-line computerized course materials as well as once-a-month, face-to-face working sessions to incorporate practical, hands-on experience with the on-line training.

It is helpful to have a home computer with high-speed internet connection. However, the lack of a computer will not prevent anyone from taking the training. A computer will be available at the WSU Lewis County Extension office for trainees to use for on-line work and assistance is available for those with limited knowledge or experience with computers.

Registration information:

To request an application packet or for more information visit the WSU Lewis County Extension office, Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. We are located in the basement of the Historic Lewis County Courthouse, 351 NW North Street, Chehalis, WA 98532.

Applications can be downloaded from our web site at: http://www.lewis-mg-mrc.org/training/mg_training_information

Requests can be made by phone at (360) 740-1216 or by e-mail to: art.fuller@lewiscountywa.gov. To receive an application, please leave your name (with the spelling), your complete mailing address or email address. An application will be mailed to you upon request.



WSU Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office.

351 NW North Street
Chehalis WA 98532



WSU Lewis County Extension

Master Gardener Volunteer

Basic Training

*(Year round enrollment
is now available)*

If getting your hands dirty in the garden sounds like fun to you, and you love to swap plants or stories about plants and gardening, consider becoming a WSU Master Gardener volunteer.

WSU Master Gardener volunteers are trained by WSU Extension educators to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for gardening with others in their local community. WSU Master Gardener volunteers make it their mission to educate local community members in applying horticultural science to manage their landscapes and gardens in a science-based, sustainable manner.

The WSU Extension Master Gardener program is open to everyone with an interest in gardening and a willingness to use their knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to make a positive impact on their local community.



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



Master Gardener Program



What is the time commitment required for training and volunteer activities?

- Attend orientation prior to beginning of training with the Master Gardener Coordinator.
- Training is held over a 12-month period with once a month, full-day sessions on the 3rd Tuesday of every month and can be started any month throughout the year. The training session is in a classroom environment, incorporates hands-on practice of the assigned study material and will include field trips visiting local gardens and nurseries around the county, most will be in the Centralia/Chehalis area. Trainees will spend their own time reviewing the on-line training material prior to class.
- Trainees will spend (7) three hour shifts for a total of 21 hours throughout the year at the Extension office working in the Plant and Insect Clinic with a veteran Master Gardener and under the supervision of the Master Gardener Coordinator.
- Each month from April through October, trainees will work in one of our several demonstration gardens with a veteran Master Gardener for a total of 20 hours.



Volunteer training course content includes:

- * Botany basics
- * Soils and fertilizers
- * Plant propagation
- * Pruning
- * Basic and Worm Composting
- * Water quality
- * Vegetable gardening
- * Herbaceous ornamental plants
- * Woody landscape plants
- * Home orchards
- * Berry crops
- * Lawns
- * Native plants
- * Basic entomology
- * Plant diseases
- * Diagnosing plant problems
- * Weed management
- * Vertebrate pest management
- * Understanding pesticides
- * Integrated pest management
- * Sustainable landscape design
- * Plant identification



Additional training offered:

- * Field trips to public and private gardens and specialty nurseries.
- * Educational speakers at monthly meetings.
- * Seminars and courses offered by WSU/OSU.
- * Advanced training seminars which build upon basic training.

Volunteers are trained to:

- * Work as a team member to solve plant and insect problems for the general public.
- * Provide WSU research-based information on a variety of gardening topics.
- * Assist home gardeners with information and gardening techniques which encourage a sustainable and healthy garden.

Additional activities may include:

- * Assist in preparing and staffing exhibits, displays and demonstration sites.
- * Serve as a horticultural educator and resource person in the community.
- * Assist in planning and staffing classes, workshops and demonstrations.
- * Participate in fund-raising events such as the annual Master Gardener plant sale

WSU requirements:

It is important that applicants for Master Gardener training understand the two basic tenets of the program:

1. The program is based on science-based research findings related to the horticultural topics. When providing information to the public volunteers use only WSU approved materials.
2. While pesticides are discussed throughout the training program, it is important to note that these are only considered as the last resort for the control of pests when using the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) process. Through IPM we look at cultural and biological controls as the primary option for pest and disease control.

Because of the interaction with the public and, specifically with youth, volunteers are required to undergo a criminal background check.

Fee: \$200 for materials and costs associated with the training are due prior to beginning of training. Upon completion of training and 40 hours of volunteer service, trainees receive the title of "Certified WSU Master Gardener" and a \$50 refund.

