

# Sonoma County Master Gardener Application for Membership

## Applications for the 2007 Training Class must be received by 5:00 p.m., September 30, 2006

If you love to garden, to learn about gardening, and to share your knowledge with others, the Sonoma County Master Gardeners offer you the opportunity to learn and to use your knowledge of gardening to serve the community.

The Master Gardener program is a volunteer organization that provides education services to gardeners (see other side for more information about the program). Each trainee must:

- Have a commitment to community service in Sonoma County
- Be willing to volunteer as an agent of the University of California Cooperative Extension
- Be fingerprinted and pass a Department of Justice background investigation before being accepted into the program
- Attend training classes on Monday and Wednesday, usually from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (some starting at 9:00 a.m.) from mid-January through mid-April. Classes may be held on holidays, such as President's Day.
- Attend five hours of training at the Information Desk. This training is individually scheduled during February and March and is in addition to the training classes above
- As an intern, within the first year after completing the training class,
  - Volunteer at least 60 hours: at least 25 hours at the Master Gardener Information Desk (in addition to 5 hours of desk training) and the remaining hours on that or other approved Master Gardener projects
  - Complete at least 12 hours of approved continuing education (Each monthly meeting counts as 2 hours)
- Each year after the intern year, volunteer at least 25 hours per year on approved Master Gardener volunteer activities, plus complete at least 12 hours of approved continuing education

The fee for the classes is \$260. Fee will be collected after your acceptance as a trainee. Please do not enclose the fee with your application. Full and partial scholarships are available. If you are accepted you will be informed about how to apply for assistance.

**If you want to apply for the Master Gardener Training Class**, please complete the attached application form. Keep this cover page for reference and return the application to:

Master Gardener Applications  
University of California Cooperative Extension  
133 Aviation Blvd. Suite 109  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

To be considered for acceptance you must attend the mandatory orientation meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2006, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the University of California Cooperative Extension (address above). At this time, the Master Gardener organization and requirements will be fully explained and your interview will be scheduled on one of these dates: October 14, 16, 17, or 19. Interviews will be held at the Cooperative Extension office. Selection of members of the new training class will take place by mid-October, and you will be notified of the results. If you have questions about the required orientation meeting, please call the Master Gardener Coordinator at 565-2305. Please do not expect a response from the Master Gardeners about your application before the meeting.

If you have an e-mail address and you check your e-mail regularly, we will appreciate your providing the address in the appropriate place on the application, to make it easier for us to communicate with you.

### **What is the Master Gardener Program?**

Master Gardeners are volunteers trained and certified by the University of California Cooperative Extension in the areas of gardening and horticulture. Since 1981 they have been extending information and providing technical assistance to gardeners in Sonoma County.

### **What training is given to Master Gardeners?**

Master Gardener trainees attend a training program comprising approximately one hundred hours of instruction in plant science and horticulture covering such topics as soils, fertilizers, irrigation, weeds, diseases, insects and other pests, fruit and landscape trees, vegetables, xeriscaping, and more. Each trainee receives The California Master Gardener Handbook as well as other UCCE publications.

Classes are taught by experts in their fields. They include Cooperative Extension Advisors and specialists from the University of California at Berkeley and Davis, local community college faculty, and other knowledgeable resource people.

### **Who becomes a Master Gardener?**

Master Gardeners are people of all ages and from all walks of life. They include business men and women, professionals, educators, retirees, homemakers, and students — all with some experience and knowledge of plants and gardening. Master Gardeners must be enthusiastic, willing to learn and help others, and must be able to communicate with diverse groups of people.

### **What is the Master Gardener's commitment to the program?**

After completing the training and passing a written exam, the new Master Gardener Interns are required to complete a minimum of sixty hours of volunteer service and twelve hours of continuing education within the next twelve months. (Attending the monthly meeting counts toward continuing education hours, as does attending Master Gardener workshops, JC classes, and other classes and seminars on gardening). Master Gardeners are selected on the basis of their ability to fulfill this commitment. In order to retain the title Master Gardener in ensuing years, Master Gardeners must complete twelve hours of continuing education per year and perform twenty-five hours of volunteer service per year. Limited scholarship assistance is available.

### **What kind of volunteer work does a Master Gardener do?**

Master Gardeners staff an information desk in the County Extension office where they answer

questions, diagnose plant problems, and give horticultural assistance to gardeners. Information is also dispersed at Farmers Markets, fairs, and through talks and demonstrations.

### **How can one obtain information from a Master Gardener?**

Telephone the Sonoma County Cooperative Extension office to ask a Master Gardener questions about plants and gardening in Sonoma County. Samples of insects, weeds, and diseased plants may be taken to the office for diagnosis. Master Gardeners are available to give talks for garden clubs, senior citizen groups, elementary schools, and other community organizations.

### **What is Cooperative Extension?**

The University of California Cooperative Extension is part of a nationwide program established by an Act of Congress in 1914 as part of the Land Grant University in every state. Three levels of government participate in funding Cooperative Extension programs: federal, through USDA, provides a portion of the budget; state, through the universities, pays for statewide programs; and county, which provides housing and operating expenses for local Cooperative Extension offices. The University of California Cooperative Extension works in cooperation with federal and county governments to provide local educational programs throughout California.

The mission of the University of California Cooperative Extension is to develop, extend, and bring about the use of research-based knowledge to improve specific practices and technologies. In addition, Cooperative Extension makes practical information generally available. Cooperative Extension has research support and organizational capacity in agriculture and natural resources, in family and consumer science, in community resource development, and in youth development.

University of California county staff (Advisors) are housed in county Cooperative Extension offices in nearly every county in California. County Advisors extend knowledge, conduct field research, and provide leadership in selected Cooperative Extension program areas. Highly trained subject matter specialists, housed on University campuses and in regional offices, conduct applied research, supply information for dissemination by county staff, and provide leadership for state-wide programs.

#### NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The University of California prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy (including childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or status as a covered veteran (covered veterans are special disabled veterans, recently separated veterans, Vietnam era veterans, or any other veterans who served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized) in any of its programs or activities. University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws. Inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the Affirmative Action/Staff Personnel Services Director, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 300 Lakeside Drive, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612-3550, (510) 987-0096.



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APPLICANTS DO NOT WRITE ON THIS SIDE - FOR SELECTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY

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After the interview, write date, your name(s), score (as defined at bottom of page), and comments in this space.

Interview Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Interviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Interview Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Skills:

Other comments:

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For score, use numbers as follows:

1 = accept / excellent  
2 = accept / good

3 = waiting list / fair  
4 = do not accept (from interview)

5 = screened out  
6 = dropped out

7 = no show at interview