TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Online Activities

High-speed internet is recommended and Windows 10 or MAC 05 is the minimum operating system requirement for ***optimal*** video conferencing (Zoom).

In-person Training

It is helpful to have a home computer with high-speed internet but the lack of a computer will not prevent anyone from taking the training.

Computers are available at the WSU Lewis County Extension office for trainees to use and technical training and assistance will be provided upon request at any time.

Registration Information

Application packets are available at the WSU Lewis County Extension office, Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

We are located at 17 SW Cascade Ave. Chehalis, WA 98532.

Application packets can also be requested via email at jason.adams@lewiscountywa.gov or by phone at (360) 740-1216.

Payment is only required upon acceptance into the program and due prior to training.

To learn more about the Master Gardener program, visit http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/.

Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens*

Borst Park

Providence Place

SW Washington Fairgrounds

Salkum Timberland Library

* Not pictured is the Borst Demo Greenhouse

Updated Oct. 2024

WSU Lewis County Extension

Master Gardener Volunteer Basic Training

The WSU Lewis County Extension Master Gardener program is open to everyone with an interest in gardening, landscaping, and environmental stewardship and a willingness to use their knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm to make a positive impact in their community!

Trained by WSU educators and other subject-matter experts, Master Gardeners provide education and information about horticultural, agricultural, ecological, and other practices that promote sustainability and resilience.

So, if you want to improve your gardening skills and help make a difference in your community, consider becoming a WSU Lewis County Master Gardener volunteer!

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Training Time Commitment

IN-PERSON TRAINING

Classes are held every 3rd Tuesday from 9 am to 4 pm from January—November and trainees can join at any time.

Training will include in-person coursework, online quizzes and a final exam, field trips, tours, projects, and other hands-on training activities. Some hybrid training available.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Working with Certified Master Gardeners, trainees will complete **10** hours in the Plant & Insect Clinic, **10** hours helping in any of the four Demo Gardens throughout Lewis County and **20** hours in "free choice" program-related activities***.**

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

After completing the required coursework, exams, and volunteer service, Trainees will become a Certified Master Gardener.

To remain Certified and an active member, volunteers need a minimum of **40** hours of combined service and continuing education.

People with disabilities may request an exemption for activities that might prevent or limit their ability to participate.

Volunteers can earn hours through evening, weekend, and weekday activities and families with young children are welcomed at most.

**** Activity categories** include Demo Gardens, Plant & Insect Clinics, Program Support, Stormwater Education, Youth Outreach, and Other Educational Delivery.*

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

Training Topics Include:

* Basic botany and Plant identification
* Berry crops & Small fruits
* Composting & Vermiculture
* Diagnosing plant problems
* Entomology & Pollinators
* Fire-resistant landscaping
* Greenhouse Construction & Maintenance
* Herbaceous & Woody landscape plants
* Home orchards & spray schedules
* Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
* Lawns & Turf Management
* Native plants
* Pesticide Use & Safety
* Plant diseases
* Plant propagation
* Pruning & training
* Soils, soil management, and fertilizers
* Sustainable gardening & landscaping
* Vegetable gardening
* Vertebrate pest management
* Weed management & much more!

Additional training offered include:

* Tours of public and private gardens, nurseries, and compost facilities.
* Educational speakers at monthly meetings.
* Seminars and courses offered by WSU and other accredited colleges, universities, etc.

Volunteers are trained to:

* Solve plant and insect problems for the public.
* Research, evaluate, and provide WSU or other science-based information on a variety of gardening topics to the public.
* Teach and promote sustainable gardening and landscaping techniques.

Volunteer activities may include:

* Assist in planning, monitoring, or teaching classes, workshops, & demonstrations.
* Staffing information booths at local events.
* Participate in fund-raising events such as the Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale.
* Using technical, clerical, or other skills to improve and support the Program.

WSU REQUIREMENTS

1. **The safety of volunteers, youth, and the general public is very important!** Thus, volunteers must undergo a criminal background check every two years.
2. The MG program focuses on **science-based research** related to horticultural and environmental topics so only *WSU-approved resources are provided to the public.*
3. Chemical pest control is an acceptable option but usually as a *last resort* when using **Integrated Pest Management.**

TRAINING FEE

The total cost of the Master Gardener Training Course is **$225** and includes:

- A background check fee
- Training materials & other resources
- Access to WSU's educational technology

Installments can be arranged upon request.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
LEWIS COUNTY EXTENSION