



Dear Prospective Master Gardener,

Thank you for your interest in the Washington State University (WSU) Extension Master Gardener Program. We are excited to have you join us! The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program trains volunteers to be effective community educators in research-based gardening practices and environmental stewardship. Although gardening experience is not required to participate in the program, having a willingness to learn and to serve your community as a volunteer are highly encouraged and recommended.

To become a WSU Extension Master Gardener volunteer is a 12-month-long commitment in which you must complete these three training activities:

1. **WA Green School Course** – online and offline delivery of content over a 20-week period from October 2026 to February 2027 where you explore a variety of topics such as botany, plant identification, entomology, soil science, plant problem diagnosis, integrated pest management, and pollinators.
2. **Local Volunteer Training** – consists of up to twelve in-person learning labs and/or hands-on training sessions at locations within the Tri-Cities area between October 2026 and March 2027.
3. **Volunteer Internship** – 40 hours of service on designated Benton/Franklin County Master Gardener projects to be completed by September 2027. Work alongside Certified Master Gardeners to apply your newly gained knowledge and skills, gain confidence in community education, and experience what it truly means to be an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer.

We are now accepting applications for the Extension Master Gardener Program 2026-2027 volunteer training session. Applications are due no later than **August 31, 2026**. Tuition for this year-long training program is **\$275**. **Please do not send payment with your application.** Program fees are collected after acceptance into the program. To apply:

1. Please fill out the enclosed application.
2. Submit your application via:
  - Email to [wsuextension@co.benton.wa.us](mailto:wsuextension@co.benton.wa.us)
  - Mail to or drop-off at WSU Benton County Extension, 7102 W. Okanogan Pl., Ste 102, Kennewick, WA 99336

After we receive your completed application, we will:

1. Contact your references.
2. Notify you of acceptance into the program after hearing back from your references.
3. Email you a link to complete a mandatory background check.
4. Provide you payment and course enrollment instructions after completing the background check.

If you wish to learn more before applying to become a Master Gardener Volunteer, please call the WSU Benton/Franklin County Extension office at (509) 735-3551 or email us at [wsuextension@co.benton.wa.us](mailto:wsuextension@co.benton.wa.us).

We look forward to receiving your application!

Sincerely,

Chona Fawbush

Master Gardener Program Coordinator | WSU Benton/Franklin County Extension



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
**EXTENSION**



## Washington State University Extension Master Gardener Program

The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program is open to individuals interested in becoming volunteers and sharing gardening and horticulture knowledge with the general public through community outreach. Extension Master Gardener volunteers engage with communities to support stewardship of our soil, water and wildlife, and contribute to food security by using sustainable gardening practices. We welcome applicants of all experience levels and backgrounds who are passionate about increasing their gardening knowledge and giving back to communities through volunteer service.

**To become a WSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer, you must be 18 years of age or older. Are you 18 years of age or older?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete and return to your local WSU Extension Office*

**Name:**

\_\_\_\_\_

(First)

(Middle)

(Last)

**Preferred Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing**

**Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

(Street)

(City)

(Zip)

**How may we refer to you?** \_\_\_ she/her \_\_\_ he/him \_\_\_ they/them other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like your pronouns included on your name badge? (circle one)** Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Phone:** Day: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time to Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Eve: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time to Call: \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please describe your gardening experience or education/training (personal, volunteer, or work), or if you have not gardened, why gardening interests you:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What are you most excited to learn more about? (please check all that apply)**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annuals                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Herbs                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Propagation         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Perennials                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Houseplants                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouses         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roses                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit trees                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Container gardening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawns                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Berries and grapes          | <input type="checkbox"/> Insects             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ornamental grasses             | <input type="checkbox"/> Trees and shrubs            | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant diseases      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native plants                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pruning                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Weeds               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat               | <input type="checkbox"/> Soils                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape design    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Composting                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Water gardens       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire-resistant landscaping | <input type="checkbox"/> Climate resilient gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterwise gardening |

**Share experiences where you used your time (volunteered) to help others or a cause:**

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**In the Master Gardener Program, we often rely on volunteers' other skills, interests or experience. What non-gardening skills do you have that you would be willing to share in support of the Program?**

*(please check all that apply)*

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing/illustrating  | <input type="checkbox"/> Research/data collection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website development                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising           | <input type="checkbox"/> Public speaking          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic design                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing/publishing    | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant writing         | <input type="checkbox"/> Community organizing     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event planning                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Proofreading          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____              |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing & publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____              |

**Please provide specific information on the above checked categories: (optional)**

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<b>Photo/Video Release</b>
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*I understand that, unless noted below, WSU Extension may use photos, video, or audio recordings made of me at events to promote the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program without compensation. I understand that WSU Extension may reveal my name in descriptive text or commentary.*

I do not agree.

<b>Personal References</b>
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**References:** List non-family members who have knowledge of your skills, abilities, and qualifications. Individuals should have worked with you on projects and activities and/or have direct experience with or knowledge of your qualifications. Please provide complete addresses and phone numbers.

**Name:**

	First	Last	Relationship
<b>Contact Information:</b>			
	Home Phone	Work Phone	

**Email Address:**

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**Name:**

	First	Last	Relationship
<b>Contact Information:</b>			
	Home Phone	Work Phone	

**Email Address:**

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*I authorize Washington State University Extension to contact the listed references. I understand that a criminal background check is required prior to being fully accepted as a volunteer in the program. I understand that misrepresentation or omission of required information is just cause for non-appointment as a volunteer with Washington State University Extension. I understand that I serve at the pleasure of the Washington State University Extension and agree to abide by the policies of Washington State University Extension and individual program areas and to fulfill the volunteer responsibilities to the best of my ability.*

**By signing and submitting this application I agree to the Volunteer & Expectations Agreement at:**  
<https://mastergardener.wsu.edu/get-involved/join-us/agreement-review/>

*Please click on the link above and read the Volunteer Expectations and Agreement before signing below. Specifically, you are agreeing that if you do not complete the minimum service hours requirements within the required time frame, you will be billed for each hour of service not completed at a rate of \$25 per hour.*

**Applicant Signature:**

**Date:**

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

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information, or reasonable accommodation need to contact their local Extension office at least 2 weeks prior to the deadline for application.

## Civil Rights Information WSU Master Gardener Volunteers

### ***Confidential & Voluntary***

The WSU Extension Master Gardener program is part of a land-grant university system. The land-grant university system was built on the principle that all people should have access to education. The WSU Extension Master Gardener program wants to ensure we uphold this principle in our work.

Additionally, Washington State University Extension and its programs are federally funded and as such are required by the Civil Rights Act to report demographic information for employees, volunteers and community persons who seek our services. Please complete this form and return it to your local program coordinator. Responses will not be used in the selection process. This page will be removed prior to the application being reviewed.

Our goal for collecting this information is to see how well we uphold the land-grant principle of access to education. We summarize the race, ethnicity, and gender of volunteers and of the people we serve to determine how closely WSU Master Gardener programs are to balanced participation in each county.

Note: Your name will not be reported in conjunction with your Race, Ethnicity and Gender data. The data is reported as an aggregate to USDA-NIFA and names are never included in the reports. Individually identifiable information will be treated as confidential, is not disclosed without (written) consent, and is not included in the review of application to become an Extension Master Gardener volunteer. Your name is only used to record who has reported and who has not in order to accurately report Race, Ethnicity and Gender data.

#### What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Gender other or unidentified
- Prefer not to respond

#### What is your ethnicity?

- Hispanic or Latino
- Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino
- Ethnicity unidentified
- Prefer not to respond

#### What is your race?

- White
- Black or African American
- First Nations / American Indian / Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander
- Asian
- Two or more races
- Race other or unidentified
- Prefer not to respond

***The College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS) is committed to creating and maintaining a diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning and working environment for students, staff, faculty, and the communities we serve and in which we operate.***

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