



Oregon State University Extension Service Marion County

It's a New Day for Training to become a Master Gardener Volunteer

Contributed by Brooke Edmunds, Community Horticulture for Marion and Polk counties



The OSU Extension Master Gardener program has revamped, revised, and re-imagined training for new Master Gardeners in 2022 to become more accessible than ever. Mixing the best of both worlds, online training will deliver our top-notch university-level gardening education, with localized and in-person hands-on training workshops organized by county-based OSU faculty.

Why are we doing this?

We're better meeting community needs: In the summer of 2021, we conducted an extensive community assessment. Findings clearly show the general public wants flexible opportunities to interact, access content and learning on demand, and on their own time. Offering elements of training online and/or in-person will clearly meet that demand in a way we've never done before.

More on-demand education also means that people with busy schedules can fit the training into their schedules in the way it works best for them.

We're also offering tiered pricing that includes reduced fees and opportunities for scholarships. Tiered pricing includes options for those who want to pay a bit more, to support others who choose the reduced fee option.

COVID is still here: it's difficult to anticipate what 2022 will look like. Meeting inside, social distancing, and differing county impacts, all make maneuvering with COVID an ongoing challenge. This new model can better meet the need and demand while maintaining flexibility through this changing climate.

Better delivery of adult education means more hands-on workshops, less lectures: Instead of using our in-person time for 3-hour lectures, our hybrid training model uses that time for hands-on, interactive, and experiential workshops. Instead of listening to PowerPoints, trainees instead learn from our expert faculty and Master Gardener volunteers in the garden.

What does it mean to be a Master Gardener?

Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener volunteers are neighbors, friends and family who you can go to for garden advice that is grounded in science and locally relevant. We are garden educators and on-the-ground community scientists. [Learn more about our mission, vision, values and priorities of the program.](#)

Are you ready to become a Master Gardener?

See our [full schedule with workshop dates and apply online](#) to become a Marion County Master Gardener today. Application deadline has been extended to December 15th!

Link - <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/marion/become-master-gardener>

Questions about the program? Please reach out to Brooke Edmunds, Community Horticulture Faculty, brooke.edmunds@oregonstate.edu, 503-588-5301.



Apply by 12/15 to become a Master Gardener in Marion County!