

Master Gardener Program

CAPE COD COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF CAPE COD

WHAT: The Master Gardener Program is a cooperative effort between community volunteers and the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension. The program is designed to meet the horticulture needs of Barnstable County citizens through education and outreach of unbiased research based information. Volunteers are trained by the Cooperative Extension to utilize their expertise to teach people about plants, pests, and the environment as it relates to ornamental and food crops.

WHO: Anyone who enjoys gardening and is enthusiastic and interested in helping people. Should be knowledgeable or experienced in gardening and should be able to communicate effectively. This is a long term commitment and should be willing to commit to the volunteer and training time.

WHERE: Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, 3195 Main St., Barnstable, MA 02630

WHEN: Applications will be available for download from the Cape Cod Cooperative website in August for the upcoming Master Gardener Training Program.

Deadline for applications is October 1st.

If accepted into the program the cost is \$150. Scholarships are available if needed.

Training for this program begins Tuesday in early January and meets every Tuesday through the end of March from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Harborview Meeting Room located in Barnstable at the County Complex.

Applications and all information regarding this program can be found on our website, capecod.gov/extension.

Master Gardener trainees receive formal training from the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension covering a wide range of horticulture topics. Topics covered in training include botany, entomology, pathology, soils, plant identification, diagnostics, ornamentals, vegetables, fruits and many more horticultural topics. The trainee must then volunteer 60 hours to Master Gardener and/or Cooperative Extension activities to become a certified Master Gardener. Volunteers are encouraged to continue their Master Gardener status by volunteering a minimum of 20 hours per year and attending 5 hours of continuing education programs per year.

The Master Gardener program has a unique mission: “Helping Others Learn to Grow”. The mission is particularly significant now, when a connection to local food and the landscape is so highly valued. If you are interested in “Helping Others Learn to Grow” please consider joining these dedicated volunteers.

Those interested in becoming a Master Gardener should be:

- o Interested in helping people
- o Enthusiastic
- o Knowledgeable or experienced in gardening
- o Able to communicate effectively
- o Able to commit to the volunteer and training time
- o Interested in being involved for many years

Activities Master Gardeners will participate in:

- o Answering horticulture questions from the public via the MG Hotline
- o Assisting with the MG Demonstration Garden
- o Participating in Extension horticultural exhibits
- o Assisting with Children’s Gardens
- o Other activities such as speakers bureau, soil testing, seminars, fairs, and other appropriate outreach activities agreed to by volunteers and Extension staff

Benefits of being a Master Gardener are:

- o In-depth horticultural training and continuing education opportunities
- o Meeting and working with others interested in horticulture
- o Personal satisfaction of helping others garden successfully

