



# Erath County Master Gardener Training

**October 10- December 19, 2019**  
**Intensive, Unbiased, Current Instruction**

Thank you for expressing an interest in the Master Gardener Program. Attached is the registration information and tentative course schedule for the 2019 class. During this class, you will receive the most current information from top-notch Extension Specialist, County Extension Agents, and Horticultural Professionals.

If you are interested in horticulture, landscaping, or gardening this is the training for you. Classes will be held on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. with a work through lunch. (Brown bag lunch) Class locations will be at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center (1229 N. US HWY 281) with potential tours.

Any interested Erath County resident can register. There is a \$150 training fee which will include the Master Gardener Manual, all classroom instruction, volunteer screening and refreshments.

Each participant is required to complete 50 hours of instruction and complete 50 hours of community service through the Extension Office to become a certified Master Gardener.

This training would be comparable to any horticultural course and at a bargain price. For additional information contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Office today. To register return the registration form and background check form with the \$150 training fee no later than October 4th. Please make checks payable to: Erath Ag Committee

Sincerely,

Lonnie Jenschke  
 County Extension Agent - Ag  
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
 Erath County Office

***Registration Due October 4th***  
***First Class October 10th***  
***Last Class December 19***

**For more information about the Erath Master Gardeners contact Texas Agrilife Extension Service at: 254.965.1460**

Topics of Discussion

- Soils /Fertility
- Earth-Kind Roses
- Texas Organic Gardening
- Native Trees
- Plant Diseases
- Entomology
- Pesticides
- Turf Grass
- Fruits & Vegetables
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Plant Propagation
- Water Quality and Irrigation
- Landscape Design
- Tours

*Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to*

*race, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.*

*The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.*

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact Lonnie Jenschke at (254) 965-1460 by (October 10, 2016) to determine how reasonable accommodation can be made.



TEXAS A&M  
**AGRILIFE**  
EXTENSION

## What is a Master Gardener?

The Texas Master Gardener program is an educational volunteer program conducted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Master Gardeners are members of the local community who take an active interest in their lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers and gardens. They are enthusiastic, willing to learn and help others and able to communicate with diverse groups of people. What really sets Master Gardener's apart from other home gardeners is their special training in horticulture. In exchange for their training, persons who become Master Gardeners contribute time as volunteers, working through the Hood County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office to provide horticultural-related information to the citizens of Hood County.

Note: Master Gardeners are representatives of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. In all volunteer work related to the program, Master gardeners follow the research-based recommendations of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The title "Texas Master Gardener" can be used by volunteers only when engaged in Extension-sponsored activities.

## Is the Master Gardener program for me?

- Do you want to learn more about the culture and maintenance of many types of plants?
- Are you eager to participate in a practical and intense training program?
- Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge with people?
- Do you have enough time to attend training and complete volunteer service hour requirements within the 1<sup>st</sup> year (50 hours/12 hours annually)
- Do you have special Interests that could benefit the community or an interest in developing one? (i.e. bird or butterfly knowledge, native gardens, wildflowers, etc.)
- Do you have a sincere interest in nature or gardening?

## Training

Members of the master gardener program will be required to attend over 50 hours in specialized training courses. The program offers instruction in lawn care; ornamental trees and shrubs; insect, disease, and weed management; soils and plant nutrition, vegetable gardening; home fruit production; garden flowers; perennials and annuals; and water conservation.

## Volunteer Commitment

In exchange for training, participants are asked to volunteer their time to the Hood County AgriLife Extension program. The type of service performed by Master Gardeners varies according to community needs and the abilities and the abilities and interest of the Master Gardeners. Some Master Gardeners answer telephone requests for information related to gardening. Others staff plant clinics, work in the demonstration garden or displays at local events in shopping malls or community centers. Master gardeners may speak to local groups and conduct workshops. They may help establish community garden projects, work with 4-H youth, or assist their agent with news or radio releases related to gardening. The Master Gardener Coordinator in the County Extension office decides how volunteer time can be best utilized.

## Certification

Participants become certified Master Gardeners after they have completed the training course and fulfilled their initial 50 hours of volunteer commitment. Master Gardeners maintain their certification by completing 12 hours of volunteer services and 12 hours of continuing education annually.

Agriculture and Natural Resources • Family and Consumer Sciences • 4-H and Youth Development • Community Development

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We appreciate your commitment to the Texas Master Gardener program. Your satisfaction and progress in this volunteer position is important to us. Please read the following expectations and indicate your willingness to cooperate by signing the end of this form. This form must be signed and filed with the county Extension office, and will need to be updated annually. Volunteers not adhering to all items in this agreement may forfeit their certification as a Master Gardener volunteer.

I understand that I am trained by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in the field of Horticulture and I am expected to extend research based information to the public on behalf of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. In exchange for the minimum of 50 hours of Master Gardener Training provided by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, I will:

- Commit to a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer service to the horticultural programming efforts in Erath County within one year of becoming a certified Master Gardener.
- I understand that in order to maintain active status as a Master Gardener Volunteer, I must volunteer a minimum of 12 hours annually after my intern year and gain a minimum 6 continuing education hours annually.
- Provide a record of this service as directed by the Master Gardener Program Coordinator.
- Comply with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Background Check policy. The background check is to be renewed every three years.

When acting as a Texas Master Gardener volunteer I agree to:

- Consistently exhibit a positive professional manner toward and about Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the Master Gardener Program, the Master Gardener Coordinator, other Master Gardener volunteers and clients.
- Carry out and discharge all duties in a responsible and timely manner.
- Avoid conflict of interests
  - Not use my Master Gardener status to promote any commercial activity or private business.
  - Volunteer's efforts for their place of employment will not be considered as volunteer service to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.
- Recommend and use (when functioning as a Master Gardener) only Texas A&M AgriLife approved information for any public pesticide, herbicides, fertilizer or cultural practices.
- Provide my own transportation and pay my own expenses incurred as part of official volunteer activities. (Expenses may be tax deductible with proper documentation.) Some County Master Gardener Associations may assist volunteers with expenses to certain types of events. Check with your local Master Gardener Program Coordinator for more information on specific association policies and procedures.
- Act in accordance with the highest standard of ethics:
  - Not physically, verbally or sexually harass/abuse anyone
  - Refrain from illegal or unsafe behavior
  - Dress appropriately and not use harsh language

In regard to Master Gardener Coordinators, Master Gardener volunteers will:

- Recognize the responsibilities of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service staff/ Master Gardener Coordinator in setting program priorities, standards and direction. Specific projects for the performance of the volunteer work are determined locally and should reflect local needs.
- Refer all commercial horticulture inquiries to the Master Gardener Coordinator or other Extension staff.

In regard to Master Gardener Colleagues, Master Gardener volunteers will:

- Welcome volunteers from all backgrounds
- Respect and safeguard the individual rights, competencies, safety, and property

In regard to Clients, Master Gardener volunteers will:

- Provide quality service to the public without regard to socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

I further understand that Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will:

- Provide training, supervision, and direction to Master Gardeners through the local county Extension office.
- Communicate expectations and responsibilities of the program to volunteers.
- Match volunteer skills and interests with volunteer opportunities within the county.
- Support Master Gardener volunteers and the local Master Gardener Association.
- Provide continuing education opportunities.
- Provide access to Extension horticulture reference materials and reasonable access to Extension professionals.
- Uphold and cultivate a trustful relationship between staff and volunteers.
- Reassign and/or terminate, if necessary, any volunteer who does not uphold Texas Master Gardener policies, procedures, guidelines, and/or values.

I understand that, as a volunteer, I will not be acting as a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service employee and will not receive pay or employee benefits. I also understand that I am not covered by workers' compensation laws in connection with my volunteer affiliation. I understand and agree that Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and I both have the right to end my volunteer relationship with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at any time, for any reason, and without advance notice.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

Information taken from: Purdue, Rutgers, Georgia, Wisconsin, Missouri, Illinois, California, & Texas (Montgomery Co.) Master Gardener Programs.

# 2019 ERATH COUNTY MASTER GARDENER TRAINING

To register please complete and send this form along with payment of \$150  
made payable to Erath County Ag Committee to:  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Erath County Extension Office  
Courthouse Annex  
112 W. College St. – Room 109  
Stephenville, TX. 76401

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

1. Please describe your garden background including degrees obtained or courses taken.

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Please circle any of the following in which you would be interested in doing as part of your volunteer hours.

- A. Giving public presentations on gardening
- B. Working with youth on gardening
- C. Working in the Research Garden, or other gardening projects
- D. Assisting in the office during the Agent's absence

See back of this page

3. Please list specific gardening skills or others.

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4. How did you find out about the Master Gardener Program?  
(circle one)

1. Radio
2. TV
3. Newspaper
4. Word of Mouth
5. Internet

5. Do you have any special dietary or physical needs that should be considered during the Master Gardener Training?

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# Volunteer Application Form Instructions

1. Applicant's Printed Name – Complete with first name, middle name and last name.
2. County – Complete with the county name in which you are applying to be a volunteer.
- 3/4. Address – Complete with your current mailing address, city and zip code.
5. Social Security Number – Complete with at least the **first five** digits of the social security number. The social security number is an individual descriptor that enables the system to complete a national criminal search of 47 jurisdictions.
6. Date of Birth – Complete with the month, day and year of birth.
7. Driver's License Number – Complete with current driver's license number and state. Although optional, this helps affirm your identity during a background check.
8. Gender – Complete by circling one of the options.
9. Race – Complete the race and ethnicity section by circling the answers that apply. This field is optional; however, it is very important in confirming accurate identity.
10. Volunteer Program Area – Complete with the program area you are volunteering for (e.g., Better Living for Texans, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, Master Gardener, Master Naturalist, Master Wellness Volunteer).  
*\*4-H volunteers should complete the Texas 4-H Adult Volunteer Application (4-H 2-1.056).*
11. Previously Screened – Texas AgriLife Extension Service will accept prior screenings conducted within the past three years from other entities. The approved list of prior screenings either as an employee or volunteer include: school districts, churches, youth groups/associations (Little League, sports associations, etc.), youth agencies/organizations (Big Brother/Big Sister, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, after school/extended care programs), law enforcement (county, state or federal/prison system), Texas Youth Commission, Department of Defense – Child and Youth Services, Department of Defense – Family Programs, concealed handgun license; and/or licensed childcare workers.  
*\* The minimum requirement is a criminal background check conducted through DPS or a National Criminal Search entity.\**  
*\*\* Other sources may be considered based on documentation provided with screening criteria and specifics.\*\**  
*\*\*\* Documentation is required for screenings from other entities. This could include a letter of acceptance from the employer or volunteer group, or a letter written from the screening entity to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service stating you have been screened and tested.*
12. Authorization Statement – State agencies screening volunteers are required by legislation to use the Volunteer Center of North Texas. The Volunteer Center contracts with VeriFYI. VeriFYI is a background verification software system that accesses multi-jurisdiction checks utilizing one of the largest private-sector criminal history databases in the nation (180 million records). All information received is held in confidence and not shared at the county level. Criminal record results are shredded when a volunteer's status is determined.
13. Date Completed
14. Applicant's Signature



## Volunteer Application Form

And consent for criminal background history check authorization/waiver

To be completed by Extension program volunteers (EFNEP, BLT, etc.) and Master Volunteers only.

4-H volunteers must register online via 4-H CONNECT or by completing the 4-H Adult Volunteer Application (4-H 2-I.056)

Please print:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. APPLICANT'S FULL, LEGAL NAME _____<br><br>3. ADDRESS _____<br><br>5. FIRST 5 DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____<br><br>7. DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER (optional) _____<br><br>9. Are you of Hispanic ethnicity? Yes / No<br>RACE (circle one) White / Black / Asian / American Indian<br>Alaskan Native / Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander | 2. COUNTY _____<br><br>4. CITY _____ ZIP _____<br><br>6. DATE OF BIRTH _____<br><br>8. GENDER (circle one) Male / Female<br><br>10. VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AREA _____ |
|---|--|

**Previously Screened**

11. I verify that I have been previously screened including a criminal background check and PASSED.     Yes     No
- If yes, by who? \_\_\_\_\_ When (Year): \_\_\_\_\_
- For what purpose? \_\_\_\_\_
- Did you pass? If not, what restrictions were imposed? \_\_\_\_\_
- If you have been screened and passed a criminal background check through an Extension-approved entity, a letter/proof must be submitted.

**Please sign at the bottom of the form.**

12. I hereby authorize VeriFYI and/or its Service Provider and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service to request and receive any and all background information about or concerning me, including, but not limited to, my Criminal History, Driving Record, Employment History, Military Background, Civil Listings, Educational Background, Professional License from any Individual, Corporation, Partnership, Law Enforcement Agency, and other entities including my Present and Past Employers. I authorize the Texas AgriLife Extension Service or any of its components to make reference checks relating to my volunteer service. I understand that this information will be used to determine my eligibility as a volunteer/employee with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.
- The criminal history, as received from the reporting agencies, may include arrest and conviction data, as well as plea bargains and deferred adjudications and delinquent conduct committed as a juvenile. I understand that this information will be used, in part, to determine my eligibility for an employment/volunteer position with this organization. I also understand that as long as I remain an employee or volunteer here, the criminal history check may be repeated at any time. I understand that I will have an opportunity to review the criminal history as received by client/agency and a procedure is available for clarification, if I dispute the record as received. I also understand that the criminal history could contain information presumed to be expunged.
- I further release and discharge VeriFYI and their Service Provider and all of their Subsidiaries, Affiliates, Officers, Employees, Contract Personnel, or Associates, from any and all claims and liability arising out of any request for information or records pursuant to this authorization and/or procurement of an investigative consumer report and understand that it may contain information about my character, general reputation, personal characteristics, and mode of living, whichever are applicable.
- I understand that I have the right to make written request within a reasonable period of time to VeriFYI for additional information concerning the nature and scope of the investigation. I acknowledge that I have voluntarily provided the above information for employment/volunteer purposes, and I have carefully read and understand this authorization.