

Cumberland County Center
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Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program

The Extension Master Gardenersm Volunteer Program in North Carolina is a joint endeavor of North Carolina Cooperative Extension and volunteers who wish to help gardeners by sharing their knowledge. The program is designed to recruit and train volunteers to help meet educational needs of home gardeners.

The term "gardening" is used in a broad sense. Classes include training on vegetables, fruits, lawn or turf grasses, shrubs, trees, flowers, and landscaping. Classes also include training on insect and disease control, soil fertility, and many other aspects of the culture of ornamentals and vegetables.

As an Extension Master Gardenersm Volunteer, you will receive 50+ hours of training that includes classes, reviews, and take-home tests. After completion of classroom training, you will be expected to participate in 40 hours of "payback" volunteering. These hours will consist of working with experienced Extension Master Gardenerssm on the Extension Master Gardenersm Hotline and with community programs. Upon completion of the classroom training and the "payback hours", you will become a certified Extension Master Gardenersm volunteer.

The next Cumberland County Extension Master Gardenersm Volunteer class will be held on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., beginning on January 12, 2017 and ending May 4, 2017. **The cost for the Extension Master Gardenersm Volunteer training is \$130.00.** This fee covers class materials and the Extension Master Gardener manual.

Participants are expected to attend all of the class sessions (a minimum attendance of 80% is required) and to study the materials that will be provided. After completing classes and the 40 hours of "payback" volunteering, participants will be expected to volunteer time on the Extension Master Gardenersm Hotline. They will be given opportunities to teach workshops, give demonstrations, and assist at trade shows and many other gardening related activities.

As a component of continuing education, Extension Master Gardenersm Volunteers are expected to attend the monthly Extension Master Gardenersm meetings on the second Friday of each month. The meetings begin at 10:00 a.m.

Please complete the application provided to be considered for acceptance in the 2017 Extension Master Gardenersm class. **Please return your application to the Extension Office no later than November 18, 2016. Late applications are not accepted.**

Thank you for your interest in the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Cumberland County Master Gardenersm Volunteer program. If you need further assistance or information please contact me at (910) 321-6871.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Bailey
Extension Agent
Agriculture

Commercial Horticulture, Urban Horticulture, Master Gardener Coordinator, Beekeeping