

Fact Sheet: 2016 WSU Extension Master Gardener Training

CLASS FEES: The cost for the 2016 training is \$175.00. The \$100 payable to WSU Grays Harbor and Pacific County MG Foundation can be paid by check or credit card. To register for the WSU on-line portion of the training, you must have a Visa Cash or Credit card (no Debit Cards) to cover that cost of \$75.00. Please do not send any payment with your application. If you are accepted into the program, these fees will be due and collected at the orientation sessions in January. Receipts will be issued. Limited scholarships are available. Training for personal enrichment with no desire of becoming a MG Volunteer is also available at a cost of \$250; space for this type of training is very limited.

TRAINING MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT: Training materials are included in your \$175 class fee. You will receive a Master Gardener Manual and other publications and handouts. The fee also covers room rental fees, speaker fees and lesson supplies. Additional resources will be available to purchase at reduced prices. The use of a computer with high speed internet access and an email account is mandatory for the training program and an ongoing requirement for all Master Gardeners. Veteran Master Gardeners who are proficient in computer systems are available if you need assistance.



TRAINING DETAILS: The 2016 training will begin with orientation on January 16th, 2016 in Pacific County or January 23rd, 2016 in Grays Harbor County followed by ten Saturday classes held every other week beginning February 6th. The last class is June 18th, with graduation on June 25th. The Saturday classes consist of educational activities that enhance the information presented in the WSU on-line modules. Both completion of the on-line modules and attendance at the Saturday classes are required. Classes will be held at various locations in Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties.

EXPECTATIONS: You are expected to attend all Saturday classes. Arrive early enough to be ready for class to begin promptly at 9:00am at the location provided. Classes will end at 3:30pm. There will be a 30 minute lunch break. If childcare arrangements need to be made, please allow adequate time to be able to drop off before class and/or pick up after class. Trainees will be asked to assist in clean up following each class session. Be prepared for class by completing all of the reading assignments and WSU on-line modules as assigned for that session. Please be courteous, respectful and ready to learn.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE INTERNSHIP: Once the on-line and Saturday class sessions are completed, interns are required to complete 60 hours of approved volunteer service under the guidance of veteran Master Gardeners to become a certified Master Gardener. Some of these hours may be done prior to completion of the classes subject to approval of the coordinators. These 60 hours must be completed by September 30, 2017. If you do not complete the 60 hours prior to September 30, 2017, you must pay an additional \$150. To maintain certification, Master Gardeners commit to complete 25 volunteer service hours plus an additional 10 hours of continuing education per year.

SCOPE OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Master Gardener volunteers are WSU trained professionals who provide unbiased, research-based home gardening and horticulture information to the public. Master Gardeners are viewed as a key resource who provide information on environmentally friendly gardening practices. Master Gardeners answer questions and give advice to home gardeners on plant disease and identification, plant care, pest management, sustainable gardening and many associated topics. This is done through various activities including plant clinics, demonstration gardens located in Elma and Ilwaco, and outreach programs such as public presentations and youth programs.

MENTOR PROGRAM: Mentors will be available to help trainees with questions and concerns. The Mentor's task is to make trainees comfortable with the WSU Master Gardener Program. All mentors are veteran Master Gardeners.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Master Gardener Program originated in Washington State in 1973 and has been adopted throughout the United State and Canada. This program is committed to fostering the enjoyment of gardening through education. While this program certainly offers gardeners the opportunity to gain personal knowledge in a variety of gardening subjects, the primary focus is to develop community educators. The ideal candidate has the desire and commitment to be a lifelong learner and have a willingness to share information.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions, need additional information or would like to request an application package, please use the below contact methods:

Call the WSU Extension Office: 360-875-9331

Or email: MGTrainees@gmail.com

Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office or to the WSU Office of Equal Opportunity. Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact Toni Gwin at the Pacific County Extension office, South Bend, WA, 360-875-9331, tgwin@wsu.edu at least two weeks prior to the event.