About the Asotin County Master Gardeners

The WSU Asotin County Master Gardeners are educators who love to dig in the dirt! They provide practical advice and research-based information related to horticulture issues to their local community. They received their training from WSU, UI and other professional educators.

WSU Master Gardener volunteers held their first plant diagnostic clinic in 1972 in the Tacoma Mall. Current MG's continue that tradition today with various Plant and Informational Clinics throughout the Lewis-Clark Valley.

You'll also find MG's giving demonstrations at the community garden, teaching students gardening and worm composting in the local elementary schools and the summer youth camp.

Along with their gardening knowledge, they contribute valuable skills like writing, editing, financial, event planning, organizing, clerical, speaking, teaching and leadership.

Many initially join the program to learn more about gardening and giving back to their community, but many Master Gardeners say the friendships they make and experiences they have while learning and volunteering together are the biggest rewards of the program.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
ASOTIN COUNTY EXTENSION
Master Gardener Program

Still have questions about the Master Gardener program? Do you want to be notified before the next training? Or would you like to be on our horticulture mailing list?

Here's how to reach us.

WSU Asotin County Extension

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WSU Asotin County Extension Master Gardeners

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Master Gardener Office

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WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office.

Washington State University / Asotin County

Master Gardener Volunteer Program

Learn It! Teach It!

Serving Communities Since 1973

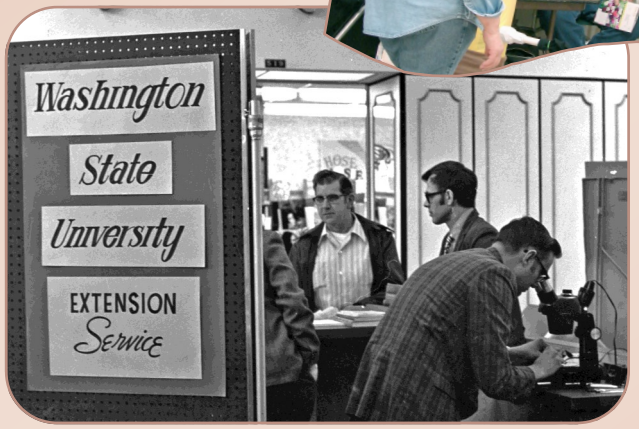
Why should I become a Master Gardener?

Some people say becoming a Master Gardener has changed their life, given them a rewarding purpose. MG volunteers are men and women, young and old, who possess a wide array of talents, come from diverse backgrounds and represent a variety of professions.

They explore the life of the garden, put what they know into practice, connect with other dedicated volunteers in their community while enjoying a wide variety of interesting and challenging activities.

Do I need to know a lot about gardening to apply?

No! Some basic experience and knowledge is preferable but we are seeking enthusiastic people who want to learn and give free advise to their community. Our library is loaded with research-based information.



Volunteer Community Educators — cultivating plants, people, and communities since 1973

What's the purpose of the Master Gardeners?

The purpose of the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program is to train volunteers to be effective community educators in gardening and environmental stewardship. Master Gardeners provide information generated from research at WSU and other university systems. (See the History of the WSU program at http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/program/overview)

Today's Master Gardener volunteers teach local community members to:

- *manage their gardens and landscapes in a science-based, sustainable manner;*
- *address environmental and social priorities such as water conservation and water quality protection;*
- *reduce the impact of invasive species; and,*
- *increase public awareness of healthy living through gardening.*

MGs also enhance communities through demonstration gardens and donation of produce to local food banks. Low-income citizens learn to grow their own food and become more self-sufficient with the help of Master Gardeners. Whatever the priority need may be, if it can be addressed through gardening, WSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers are there to serve as part of the solution.

The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program is open to everyone with an interest in gardening and a willingness to use their knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to make a positive impact on their local community.

How do I become a Master Gardener Volunteer?

If you love gardening and can commit to learning and sharing knowledge and skills through volunteer service then the WSU Asotin County Master Gardener program is for you.

In order to become a Master Gardener, you'll need training. See the steps below:

- *Pre-register* through the Extension Office to attend classes from January through April in even numbered years.
- *Once* you are accepted into the MG Training program, you'll attend 15 extensive horticulture classes presented by professional speakers.
- *You'll* also need to register and complete the WSU on-line training course.
- *Trainees* must attend all 15 classes and pass all of the on-line training modules plus the Final exam.
- *You* will be interviewed prior to being offered the opportunity to become a Master Gardener.
- *Those* accepted as Master Gardener Interns are required to volunteer 40 service hours during the first year. Ten of those hours are in Office Plant clinics.
- *Once* Interns have gained Veteran MG status, they must donate 25 service hours each year with 10 of those approved Continuing Education hours.