

Course Content

The training includes classroom work, field trips, and tours. Topics include the following:

- ✿ Basic Botany
- ✿ Garden Management
- ✿ Basic Entomology
- ✿ Insect Identification & Management
- ✿ Integrated Pest Management
- ✿ Pesticide Safety & Use
- ✿ Soil Management
- ✿ Disease Identification & Management
- ✿ Composting
- ✿ Lawn Care & Management
- ✿ Vegetables
- ✿ Small Fruits
- ✿ Tree Fruits
- ✿ Weed Control
- ✿ Landscape Plants
- ✿ Pruning Principles
- ✿ Water Quality Issues
- ✿ Ornamental Plant Care
- ✿ Plant Problem Diagnosis



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is required to become a certified WSU Master Gardener?

A. Attend 120 hours of basic training and successfully complete all assignments. In addition, at least 20 hours of labs or field trips, plus an additional 40 hours of Master Gardener volunteer service must be completed prior to certification.

Q. Do I need to be recertified every year?

A. Yes, you must attend 10 hours of approved advanced training and perform 25 hours of volunteer service each year.

Q. Is there a cost to attend and be part of the program?

A. Yes, the fee for volunteers to participate in the program is \$390. This covers the \$275 for the online training with WSU, the local fee of \$100, and \$15 for a background check.

Q. Can I just take the training without committing to the volunteer time?

A. Yes, you can take the online portion of the course for a fee of \$550.

WSU Grant County Extension

2026 Master Gardener Basic Training

Become a
Master Gardener Volunteer



What the program can offer you...



Master Gardener Program

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

WSU Master Gardener Program



Volunteers have the opportunity to:

- Expand their horticultural knowledge.
- Extend their knowledge on all aspects of consumer horticulture and gardening to the general public, including youth.
- Work as a team member to solve gardening problems.
- Serve their communities in a volunteer capacity.
- Enjoy the company of dedicated gardeners.

Primary responsibilities are to:

- Serve as an educator and resource person on horticulture and gardening topics.
- Compile and distribute educational materials on consumer horticulture.
- Assist in preparing and staffing exhibits, displays, booths, and demonstration sites.
- Serve as a team member with WSU Extension staff and other volunteers in planning and presenting consumer horticulture information.

Course instructors:

The course will be taught by WSU Extension faculty, Master Gardeners, and industry specialists. The online training program will be supplemented with hands-on and lab activities.

Volunteer qualifications:

- Have a strong volunteer ethic.
- Commit to becoming a volunteer educator for WSU Extension.
- Commit to complete the WSU Extension Green School online training (120 hours) + at least 20 hours of in-person, in-county, activities, and field trips
- Volunteer a minimum of 40 hours during a one-year period upon completion of training.
- Be available to perform volunteer work at times needed by the local WSU Extension program.
- Pass a WSP background screening.
- Read, sign, and abide by the *WSU Master Gardener Pest Management Recommendation Agreement*.
- View the required Put the Child First training.

Online training program schedule:

The training will begin in October 2026 and is 20 weeks long. Participants will need access to a computer and an email address. Application is due by August 1, 2026. They can be hand delivered or mailed to the Extension Office. By email: ga.mgvolunteers@wsu.edu



Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in the Master Gardener Program.

For additional information and for application materials, please complete and mail this form to:

Master Gardener Program
WSU Grant County Extension
1525 E. Wheeler Rd.
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Phone: 509-754-2011 Ext. 4301
Email: ga.mgvolunteers@wsu.edu

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email



Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact the Extension Office, 509-754-2011, Ext. 4313, at least one week prior to an event.