Dear Potential Master Gardener,

Enclosed please find your application for the 2024 Idaho Master Gardener program. Please read the application carefully. The Idaho Master Gardener program is not an informal gardening program. It is an intensive 12-week education course followed by hands on training to prepare you to assist other gardeners. Upon completion of the course, Idaho Master Gardeners are considered paraprofessionals in home horticulture. The Master Gardener program is nationally recognized and training received is highly coveted.

The Idaho Master Gardener program in Bonneville County requires a minimum commitment of *36 hours classroom training, from the middle of January to the beginning of April, plus 40 hours hands-on training,* arranged between you and the Extension Educator, throughout the summer months. There are also open book quizzes and final exam to be completed. Much of the hands-on training time will be spent in the Master Gardner diagnostic clinic (assisted by an Advanced Master Gardener) answering questions for other gardeners in the community.

This course is not for everyone. Those who complete the course find it rigorous but very rewarding. University credit is available for those who may be interested. If you do not have time for the program and are not prepared for the time commitment, or think you prefer a less intensive horticulture seminar, please do not sign up for the Idaho Master Gardener course. We do offer gardening programs of less intensity that may be of interest to you.

We are offering the 2024 Idaho Master Gardener program ONLINE via Zoom beginning Wednesday, February 14th, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. All associated coursework for the class will be online as well through a website called Canvas. Internet access is a must. Several hands-on, in person labs will occur during spring months. Scheduling for hands-on training will be arranged after classes begin and must be completed by September 13, 2024. The $180.00 class fee, which covers materials and other related expenses, is due and payable with your application. Payment options include checks made payable to Bonneville County Extension, cash, or card payment may be made in person or by phone (fee applies). Once the classroom AND volunteer requirements have been fulfilled, you will be refunded $155.00.

The application deadline is January 26th. Look for an acceptance letter and class schedule to follow. This application is only for the classes being held through Bonneville County. If you are interested in taking classes in another county, we can help you get that information.

We would love to have you join our group! Please take time now to complete the application and return it, to the office by January 26th. Space is limited, so don’t wait! If you have questions, feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Ron Patterson

Extension Educator