Idaho Master Gardener

A Program of Growing Interest

University of Idaho
Cooperative Extension System
Ada County
5880 Glenwood
Boise, ID 83714
(208) 287-5900
WEB: extension.ag.uidaho.edu/ada

The Purpose

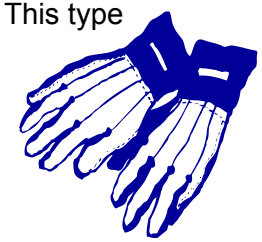
Master Gardeners provide volunteer leadership and educational instruction in home horticulture in their communities. This service may consist of answering gardening questions by phone or in person, giving horticultural talks, assisting with community beautification projects, planting demonstration gardens, introducing children to gardening, gardening with seniors, and other related activities.

Who Can Apply?

Anyone with an interest in horticulture and helping others may apply for the MASTER GARDENER (MG) PROGRAM. Beginning gardeners are welcome. Persons must be interested not only in improving their own skills and knowledge, but also in sharing their knowledge with others. Volunteer service is a large component of the MG Program. Do not sign up for this program if you do not have time to complete the volunteer service.

Commitment

After the classroom phase participants are required to complete 50-hours of hands-on practicum. This type of volunteer service varies from answering gardening questions by telephone to planting demonstration gardens or giving gardening talks to groups. The Master Gardener Coordinator will help you decide how best to use your talents as a volunteer.



Training

The MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM consists of 2 phases. Phase One: 50-hours of classroom training in plant science, and Phase Two: 50-hours of practicum hands-on service in horticulture. Classes are taught by University of Idaho faculty, as well as horticultural professionals from the community. The subject matter covered includes: fruit and vegetable culture, lawn and tree care, insect, plant disease, and weed identification and control, pesticide safety, organic gardening, soil and water management, plant propagation, composting, diagnosing plant problems and much more! Lab work and exams are part of the class work.

Training Schedule

Training is offered once a year, lasting fall through spring. Classes meet half day once a week. Check with the Ada County Extension Office for specific dates and times.

For an application see web site
WEB: extension.ag.uidaho.edu/ada
Or return this completed form to:

S Bell, MG Program Director
Ada County Extension System
5880 Glenwood Ave
Boise, ID 83714

Name (please print)

Address

City State Zip

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodations need to contact the Master Gardener office two weeks prior to the date of the program at 5880 Glenwood St., Boise, 287-5900, ada@uidaho.edu.

To enrich education through diversity the University of Idaho is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educational institution.

We Help People Grow

Certification

The motto of the MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM is “we help people grow”.

Through the Master Gardener sessions you will become knowledgeable in basic horticulture. This knowledge will increase your skills, as well as enable you to assist fellow gardeners with horticultural questions in your community. Master Gardeners have the opportunity to participate in organized, hands-on volunteer activities. Participants completing the entire 100-hour training program are certified as Idaho Master Gardeners.

In Idaho, the Master Gardener program is directed by the University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System.

This MG certification is often helpful in obtaining employment in the horticulture field. It also enables you to participate in the Advanced Master Gardener Program.

When Should I Apply?

A limited number of applicants are accepted each year on a first come, first served basis. An application will be mailed to those who complete the form found in this brochure. A letter will be sent to you prior to the start of the program advising you of your acceptance status.

Cost

There is a $150.00 fee charged for this 100-hour training program which helps cover supplies, the MG Handbook, a certificate, an identification badge and other reference materials. These materials become part of your personal library. Do not send the fee until you have been notified of acceptance.

Contact Person

If you have any questions about the MG Program, feel free to contact:

Susan Bell, MG Program Director
Phone: 287-5900
Fax: 287-5909
E-mail: sbell@uidaho.edu

University of Idaho Extension

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