University of Idaho Extension – Nez Perce County

Beginning Master Gardener Program

The University of Idaho Extension's Master Gardener Program gives gardeners an opportunity to improve their horticultural knowledge and skills and serve their communities. "Helping people grow" is the motto of the program, and it is designed to meet the gardening information needs of the community. Aspiring Master Gardeners receive basic horticultural training on a variety of topics, and give back to their community through various kinds of service. ***They also have a lot of fun!***

2012 PROGRAM DETAILS

- Classes will be held January 17 – April 24, Tue. Afternoons 1-4 PM, *unless specified.*
- A Pruning Field Trip will be scheduled outside of class time, afternoon of April 3rd at Patt's Garden Center.
- A fieldtrip to explore local horticultural resources will be scheduled at end of class.

Course Instructor(s):

Course sections will also be taught by invited University of Idaho and Washington State University faculty and horticulture professionals.

Our **Master Gardener Coordinator** is horticultural associate Mary Busch, who can be reached at 208-799-3096 or mbusch@uidaho.edu. Mary will be your contact for volunteer hours and master gardener activities.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM US

- High quality, university level instruction in home horticulture topics appropriate for Idaho.
- A professional, inclusive, and welcoming environment for **all learners**.
- Respect for your valuable time. We will do our best to start and end class on time.
- Timely communication via email or telephone if there are any changes to the schedule.
- One-on-one mentoring/tutoring throughout the certification process.
- Flexibility! We understand that adult learners lead busy lives.

WHAT WE'LL EXPECT FROM YOU

- Learners who take responsibility for their own success in the program and complete the minimum requirements.
- Communication from you if you have special needs.
- Class members who abide by the University of Idaho policies of diversity and non-discrimination.
- Class members who maintain a positive learning environment for everyone.
- Learners who respect *our* valuable time. Please let us know if you'll be coming late or leaving early.
- **CLASS MEMBERS WHO KEEP THEIR CELL PHONES QUIET DURING CLASS.**
- Class members who pitch in and help with set up, take down, refreshments and other classroom tasks.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Attendance:
Attendance is expected for all classes and scheduled field trips unless otherwise arranged. Participants are responsible for arranging for missed notes or handouts if absent.

Reading Assignments:
In addition to completion of weekly online reading assignments, activities, and quizzes. Reading assignments may also include sections of the Idaho Extension Landscapes and Gardens Site: http://extension.uidaho.edu/idahogardens/.

Field Trip(s): We believe there is great value in direct, hands-on experience. We will schedule at least one field trip at the end of this course. We will give you plenty of time to prepare for the field trips.

Poster Display: Each participant will be provided with a blank 3-fold poster display or poster board during the early weeks of class. Participants will **choose a topic in the beginning of the course and develop an educational poster on this topic**. We will provide lists of commonly encountered problems in Nez Perce County, but participants may choose their own topic as well. **Posters will be due by September 1, 2012.** Your poster will also travel with you to at least one outreach event such as a Xeriscape Garden Open House, Farmers' Market booth or the Nez Perce County Fair.

Plant Specimens: Each participant is required to complete 2 preserved plant specimens for display and outreach education. Participants will choose 1 Xeriscape garden species and 1 weed species in the beginning of the course from lists provided to press and preserve. **Specimens will be due by December 1, 2012.** Your plant specimens will be used in outreach events such as a Xeriscape Garden Open House, Farmers' Market booth, the Nez Perce County Fair, and the Professional Pesticide Applicator Training Program.

Final Exam: All participants will be given an **open-book final exam due by June 1, 2012.** This will be handed out at the end of class. You will be provided with the assistance and additional resources to complete this document successfully.

Volunteer Service/Hands-on Learning: Each participant will be expected to complete **40 hours** of volunteer service learning through University of Idaho Extension and on approved community projects by October 31, 2012. ***The majority of your time will be spent on designated activities, but you will have some choice in how you earn your hours.***

Service-learning opportunity	Dates	Minimum hours required	Description of opportunity	Example Total Hours
Help with MG Information booth at Nez Perce County and Senior Health and Wellness Fairs	County May 3rd Senior June 14th	One 1-hour shift required (at least 1 hours)	Meeting the public, sharing information about the Master Gardener Program, answering questions with advisors and Advanced Master Gardeners.	1
Plant Clinic Shifts at the Extension Office in Lewiston	Tuesday AM May-Sept	Five 4-hour shifts required (at least 20 hours)	Teams of 2-3 volunteers solve home gardening questions at the Extension office in person or by phone or email with help from the Master Gardener Coordinator, Extension Educator and Advanced Master Gardeners.	20
Nez Perce County Extension Booth at Lewiston Farmers' Market	Wednesday Afternoons June-October	One 3-hour shift required (at least 3 hours*)	Help Extension staff set up, staff, and take down a weekly Extension booth at the Lewiston Farmer's Market! Share your poster presentation, talk to the public, and promote our program. You'll get to shop the market, too, enjoy great live music, and meet our local growers and gardeners, too!	3
Nez Perce County Extension Booth at Nez Perce County Fair	September 21-23, 2012	Two 3-hour shift required (at least 6 hours)	Help Extension staff set-up, staff, and take-down Extension booth at County Fair. Share your poster presentation, talk to the public, and promote our program!	6
Various	April – October	Up to 10 hours (optional)	Your choice! Volunteering with a school or community garden, teaching, assisting with Extension horticulture programs and youth activities, helping out in water-wise garden, attending educational events or tours. Just ask!	10
			Certification requirements met!	**40**

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