



2011 MASTER GARDENER APPLICATION

I wish to become a Master Gardener and would like to be considered for the training program. I understand only 32 people will be accepted into the program. If I am selected, I will complete the training, and I will agree to donate a minimum of 45 hours of public service to the Elkhart County Extension Office's Master Gardener program during the next year. Upon acceptance to the program, I understand I will be asked to submit information for a background check.

Signature _____

Print your name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____ Cell _____

Fax Number _____ E-mail address _____

Please answer the following questions so that we can match your talents to our volunteer needs. No experience is required, but we would like to know what your interests are.

1. Years of gardening experience _____.

2. Do you have any special training or experience in gardening? Please list: _____

3. Do you have any special interests in gardening? (e.g. vegetables, perennials, greenhouse, lawn care, roses, etc.)

4. Please list any garden group or club affiliation _____

5. Are there any times in the next year you will not be available for Master Gardener classes or volunteer services (e.g. vacation, job responsibilities, other commitments)?

6. What are your hobbies and interests not related to gardening?

7. Are you employed in the horticulture profession? _____

If yes, who is your employer? _____

8. What kind of activities would you volunteer for? Please check those that apply to you.

_____ Speak to groups about gardening.

_____ Organizational activities (e.g., preparing a booth for a mall show or the fair).

_____ Answering gardening questions at the Extension Office, mall shows and other activities.

_____ Writing (news articles, fact sheets, newsletters, etc.).

_____ Identifying plants and their problems.

_____ Other ideas...please specify:

9. What groups do you feel most comfortable working with?

_____ Children (5-10 years old) _____ Teens (11-19 years old)

_____ Adults _____ Senior Citizens

_____ Other Groups _____

_____ Any of the above groups.

10. Why do you want to be a Master Gardener? Why should you be selected as a Master Gardener? Please write a paragraph or two describing why you are interested in this program. No more than one page, please!

If you wish, a letter of reference may be submitted with the application.

- Deadline for applications is 4:30 p.m. on Jul 1, 2011. Accepted applicants will be notified by July 15, 2011. Do not send money with this application!

Please send application form to:
Purdue Extension Elkhart County Office
Master Gardener Program
17746-E County Road 34,
Goshen, IN 46528



2011 ELKHART COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Time and dates of training:

All classes begin at 1:00 p.m. and end approximately 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time on Tuesdays, August, 16, 23, 30; Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27; Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25; Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Dec. 6, 13

Location:

Elkhart County Extension Office – Conference Room, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, 17746 County Road 34, east of Goshen.

Subjects to be covered:

Soil science, plant nutrition, plant science, insect identification and control, weed identification and control, disease identification and control, pesticide safety and use, vegetable gardening, woody ornamentals, flowers, indoor gardening, lawn care, tree fruit production, basic landscaping and other topics as needed.

Teachers:

Teachers for this course will be Purdue University Extension Educators, Purdue University Extension specialists, or local experts.

Class size:

Limited to 32 people. Potential participants must complete an application. Priority will be given to Elkhart County residents and those who indicate they are willing to complete Master Gardener volunteer requirements.

Cost:

\$175 per person, which includes class materials.

Expectations:

Master Gardeners is a volunteer training program, not just a series of classes. Participants are expected to attend all sessions. An exam will be given at the last class. Those passing the exam (70% or better) will become Master Gardener interns. Interns are expected to donate 45 hours of public service to the Extension Office. The type of volunteer work is based on a mutual decision with the Master Gardener intern and the Extension Educator in charge of the program. Once the intern has completed the volunteer obligation, the Master Gardener will receive a certificate from Purdue University verifying the participant has completed the Master Gardener course. Additional training and volunteerism can lead to certification as an Advanced Master Gardener.

How do I Get Involved in Master Gardeners?

Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. July 1, 2011. Pick up your application in Goshen at the Elkhart County Extension Office, 17746 CR 34, Goshen. Applications are also available on the internet at www.ag.purdue.edu/counties/elkhart/

Do not send money with your application. Applicants will be notified by letter on or before July 15 about the status of their application.