

## *How do I become a Master Gardener?*

To become a Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) master gardener you must complete a 45-hour (10 weeks) CCE Master Gardener Volunteer Training course in general horticulture. The cost for the training is \$125 and after completing 100 hours of service CCEFM will refund \$25 of the cost.

The 2014 training at the CCE in Saratoga County office in Ballston Spa will include Basic Plant Pathology, Soils & Fertilizers, Garden Botany, Annuals & Perennials, Basic Entomology, Organic Gardening & Composting, Vegetable Gardening, Fruits, Trees & Shrubs, Pruning, Ecological Lawn Care, Nuisance Wildlife, & Herbs.

After completing training, volunteers are expected to attend monthly Master Gardener meetings and complete 100 hours of volunteer Master Gardener service within two years.

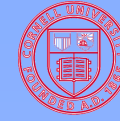
Starting in September 2013 register for the next MG training by contacting CCEFM at 518-673-5525 ext. 101 or on the Internet at [www.ccefm.com](http://www.ccefm.com). You may also email [mastergardenerccefm@cornell.edu](mailto:mastergardenerccefm@cornell.edu) or leave a message at 518-673-5525 ext. 107.



**Cornell University**  
Cooperative Extension  
Fulton and Montgomery Counties

50 East Main Street  
Canajoharie, NY 13317  
518-673-5525  
[www.ccefm.com](http://www.ccefm.com)  
[fultonmontgomery@cornell.edu](mailto:fultonmontgomery@cornell.edu)

*Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities*



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# *Volunteer Master Gardener Program*



*Fulton & Montgomery  
Counties*



## What is the Master Gardener Program?

An integral component of a local CCE association's outreach program to educate:

- \* Home gardeners
- \* Youth in school enrichment programs
- \* Community gardeners
- \* Consumers of horticultural products

### Neighbors teaching neighbors about:

- \* Landscapes
- \* Vegetables & fruits
- \* Herbs & houseplants
- \* Beneficial & harmful insects
- \* Plant diseases
- \* Integrated pest management
- \* Wildlife management & birds
- \* Soils & composting
- \* Water conservation

A corp of volunteers in New York State trained in the science and art of gardening by Cornell Cooperative Extension.

A volunteer service program—not a course or certificate. Once you stop volunteering you are no longer considered a Master Gardener.



## What does a Master Gardener do?

Activities and efforts implemented by Master Gardeners are based on the educational priorities of individual counties varying somewhat by county. Master Gardeners may:

- \*Research & answer questions
- \*Write articles about gardening
- \*Participate in demonstration projects
- \*Speak on local radio programs
- \*Advise school gardeners
- \*Consult with community gardens
- \*Staff information tables at farmers' markets
- \*Teach workshops & classes
- \*Help historic garden restoration efforts
- \*Help with community improvement projects
- \*Horticultural therapy
- \*Organize plant sales & public horticultural events
- \*Staff county fair informational booths
- \*Advise customers at garden centers
- \*Increase awareness of integrated pest management (IPM), water quality conservation & environmental issues

## What do I need to be a Master Gardener?

\*A basic interest and knowledge about landscape and food gardening

- \*Enthusiasm for acquiring and sharing horticultural knowledge and skills
- \*Interest in teaching people of all ages
- \*Written & verbal communication skills

\*Willingness to volunteer time on horticultural projects and functions to help meet the goals of the Cornell Cooperative Extension program

\*Understanding of Cornell Cooperative Extension's educational mission

\*Flexible time schedule to allow participation in the program



*Volunteers make it happen!*