

# 2016 Master Gardener Volunteer Training

If you have a love for gardening, landscaping and related activities, and you would like to share it with others, please consider becoming a Master Gardener volunteer. Master Gardener volunteers assist Cornell Cooperative Extension personnel in providing educational horticulture programs, soil and diagnostic clinics, demonstrations, exhibits, lectures for the public, and staff a “question and answer” phone hotline for their county residents. Master Gardeners have fun too! Regional and state conferences, field trips and garden visits, potluck dinners, plant exchanges and continuing education opportunities occur throughout the year. You will also become acquainted with individuals of all backgrounds who share your interest in gardening.

Applications for the Master Gardener program are being accepted now for the 2016 class and interviews will be set up during July/August. Individuals accepted into the program will have an orientation in late August and begin weekly training sessions during September, October and November. Master Gardeners receive over sixty hours of training covering an array of horticultural topics, including the following: botany; entomology; plant pathology; soil science; organic gardening; integrated pest management; turf grass; and the culture of trees, shrubs, vegetables, fruit, ornamentals, and lawns. Classes are taught to prepare you for your work as a Master Gardener Volunteer.

Participants receive a Master Gardener Certificate after completing the training, passing a written examination and contributing a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer service.

There is a program fee of \$250.00 to help defray the cost of Master Gardener training materials and bulletins. Volunteers receive (and keep) a Master Gardener Manual, soil test kit, Cornell publications about different topics such as: pruning, lawn care, growing fruit, and insect identification.

If you are interested in learning more about the Master Gardener program or would like to request an application, please go to [www.cceschenectady.org](http://www.cceschenectady.org) or contact Angela Tompkins at [amj22@cornell.edu](mailto:amj22@cornell.edu) or (518) 372-1622, ext. 259.

