

Who are Extension Master Gardeners?

Virginia Extension Master Gardener volunteers (EMGs) are educators who work within their communities to promote environmentally sound gardening practices. EMGs bring the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, to the people of the commonwealth.

The VCE Master Gardener program is made up of more than 5,000 active and certified Master Gardener volunteers throughout Virginia who contribute more than 350,000 hours of volunteer service each year. Almost 1,000 new volunteers are trained annually.

Master Gardeners work toward the following goals:

- Preserving the environment through sustainable gardening practices
- Positively impacting youth through gardening education, both in and after school
- Producing food in public and private gardens to improve human health and food security
- Improving the overall quality of life for Virginia's citizens by increasing accessibility to practical, research-based gardening knowledge



Join us!

Become a Virginia Cooperative Extension

Master Gardener

For More Information:

Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardeners

(Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah, and Warren; City of Winchester)

VCE – Frederick County
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frederick.ext.vt.edu

nsvmga.org/join

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Virginia Tech • Virginia State University



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If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify Mark Sutphin at (540-665-5699/TDD*) during business hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.



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“With the Extension Master Gardener program, there’s always more to learn and there’s always more being developed to learn.”

- Barbara

What do Extension Master Gardeners do?

- Provide guidance on sustainable gardens and landscapes
- Conduct plant clinics
- Oversee teaching and demonstration gardens
- Staff the VCE Master Gardener Help Desk
- Teach educational seminars

You can join your local EMG program and work alongside fellow garden lovers while connecting with and strengthening your community.

Become an Extension Master Gardener!

The 50-hour training program provides research-based information on a variety of horticultural and environmental topics. Training sessions are offered annually. Pre-registration is required. Contact your local VCE office for more information (frederick.ext.vt.edu).

Training topics include:

- Botany
- Water quality
- Vegetables and fruits
- Soils
- Herbaceous and woody plants
- Landscape design
- Insects and Integrated Pest Management techniques
- Lawn care
- Indoor plants
- Virginia native plants

By completing the classroom instruction, you become an Extension Master Gardener Intern. The title of VCE Master Gardener is granted after you complete a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer service.

Why be an Extension Master Gardener?

Extension Master Gardener volunteers make an impact on their communities by sharing their knowledge and empowering citizens to grow and maintain sustainable, healthy gardens and landscapes.

Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener volunteer projects include:

- **GardenFest**, an all-day gardening festival at Belle Grove Plantation. Plant sales, children’s activities, lectures and more.
- **Youth Gardening Programs**, numerous activities across all five counties involve youth: 4-H day camps, Junior Master Gardener (JMG) homeschool sessions, JMG in-school sessions and library presentations, among others.
- **Extension Master Gardener Info Booths**, volunteers assist individuals with home horticulture questions at farmers markets, fairs, and other festivals as well as staff “Ask a Master Gardener” Help Desks in the VCE offices.
- **Seed Exchange at Blandy and Seed Lending Libraries**, an annual seed exchange at Blandy Experimental Farm and State Arboretum EMGs also manage seed lending libraries in community libraries throughout the NSV.
- **Demonstration Gardens**, volunteers manage gardens and teach programs at various locations throughout the NSV: community gardens, children’s gardens, rain gardens, pollinator gardens, and native plant gardens to name a few.

For more programs see:
nsvmga.org/programs