

# Welcome to Level 1 Master Gardener!



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# Montana State University Extension Master Gardener Program: Education and Volunteering



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# The History of the Extension Master Gardener Program

- Began in Washington State (WSU) in 1972
- Dr. David Gibby, Ext. Agent in Horticulture
- Response to the overwhelming number of requests for gardening information



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# According to a 2015 National Master Gardener Survey...

83,389

**Extension Master Gardener volunteers**

5,293,130

**Extension Master Gardener volunteer hours**

\$122,112,509

**value of Extension Master Gardener volunteer hours**

14,256

**newly trained Extension Master Gardeners**

629,327

**hours completed in training**

846,431

**pounds of produce donated**

1,047,037

**direct contacts**

51,051,383

**yearly media reach**

981,603

**continuing education credits earned**

2,026

**community gardens**

1,001

**community gardens with youth involved**

38

**states reporting**



# Montana State University Extension Master Gardener Program

- Level 1 – Basic yard and garden class  
(beginner to intermediate)
- Level 2 – More intensive training for experienced gardeners  
(Intermediate to advanced)
- Level 3 – Three day intensive training at MSU  
“Master Gardener University”



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# Level 1

## Extension Master Gardener

- 8-week beginning level course
- Must complete 20 hours volunteer commitment
- Open book or take home test
  
- Soils and fertility (N-P-K-Fe)
- Plant growth and development
- Vegetable gardening
- Planting and maintaining flower beds
- Trees and shrub selection, installation and maintenance
- Lawns and irrigation
- Small fruit and fruit trees
- Composting
- Intro to integrated pest management (IPM)



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# Level 2

## Extension Master Gardener

- 8-week intermediate/advanced level course
- More emphasis on IPM and Extension
- Must complete 30 hours volunteer commitment
  
- The role of Master Gardener in Extension
- Binomial nomenclature
- Fertility, plant nutrients (more emphasis on micronutrients and microorganisms)
- Propagation
- Plant growth and development
- Entomology, plant diseases and abiotic disorders (review of IPM)
- Vegetable and fruit IPM
- Trees, Shrubs, and Lawn IPM



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# Level 3

## Extension Master Gardener Program “Master Gardener University”

- 3 day intensive training at Montana State University
- Approximately 30 hours of class time
- 40 hours volunteer commitment
- More emphasis on hands-on and roles of volunteers
- Commitment to helping local MSU Extension offices with Master Gardener



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# Montana Master Gardener Volunteering

## Possible volunteer projects:

- ❖ Farmer's Market Booth or start a Farmer's Market
- ❖ County Plant Clinic-helping your Extension/reservation agent
- ❖ Community-school gardens, public areas
- ❖ City properties (Story Mansion)
- ❖ Specialty demonstration gardens (Plant Select Garden)
- ❖ Senior/disability care facilities
- ❖ Food banks
- ❖ Presenting information to groups, at garden/trade shows
- ❖ Educational displays
- ❖ Research farms (Hort Farm)
- ❖ MSU-Gallatin County Extension demonstration garden



<https://mtmastergardener.org>

<http://gallatin.msueextension.org/mastergardener.html>



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# Volunteering & Reporting

## Why?

- ❖ Master Gardener is a service organization.
- ❖ Used for our annual Extension reporting to show the impacts of Master Gardener volunteers across the state
- ❖ Keep logging hours and food donations even after the required amount
- ❖ Gauge for us to see if the program is waning and needs to be refreshed
- ❖ Encourages community involvement and partnerships

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