

Application for the Training Program of the Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association



WHO ARE WE? We are a VOLUNTEER organization whose mission is to educate the public on horticultural matters. Membership is open to any resident of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, or Hampshire counties who has taken our training program (or the equivalent Master Gardener program in another state) and completed the necessary number of volunteer hours.

WHAT DO WE DO? Members initiate or participate in a wide range of volunteer projects whose aim is to educate the public such as:

- Garden hotlines
- Answer gardening questions on our Web Site
- Soil testing at local Farmer's Markets and other locations
- Annual gardening symposiums
- Master Gardener Booth at the Big-E
- Talks, workshops and demonstrations for civic organizations, schools and clubs
- Gardening projects at Grandmother's Garden, Hitchcock Center, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Franklin County Fairgrounds, Durfee Conservatory, Springside Park, Storrowton, and Wisteriahurst, Northampton Community Garden

REQUIREMENTS

- Successfully complete our 12 week training course (or the equivalent Master Gardener program in another state). The sessions are designed to give in-depth training in horticultural basics to enable Master Gardener's to answer a wide variety of questions from the general public. Classes are held from 9AM to 3PM, on Thursday from January to April. The course is offered every other winter in odd-numbered years. Hands-on experience comes later through volunteer projects and continuing education programs.
- Complete 60 hours of volunteer time in specific areas which support our mission
- Tuition fee of \$300
- Commit to volunteering a minimum of 15 hours annually to remain active.

**Listed below is the 2009 Class schedule
The 2011 schedule will be similar**

WMMGA 2009 Class Schedule

*All classes will be held at the 2nd Baptist Church in South Hadley
except for 2/5, 3/5 and 3/25.*

JANUARY	15	9-10:00	Orientation	George Kingston, Marilyn Wiley - WMMGA
		10:15-3:00	Plant Structure and Function (with break for lunch)	Ron Kujawski - UMass Extension (retired)
	22	9:00-11:45 12:15-3:00	Basic Entomology IPM for Home Landscapes	Bob Childs - UMass Extension Tina Smith - UMass Extension
	29	9:00-11:45 12:15-3:00	Soils Culture & Maintenance of Trees & Shrubs	George Kingston, WMMGA Brian Gibbons, Gibbons Brothers LLC
FEBRUARY	5	9:00-11:45 12:15-3:00	LOCATION: Berkshire Botanical Garden, Stockbridge (2/5 only) Plant Propagation	Susan Pitman & Kathy DeVlyder, WMMGA
			Plant Nutrition/Composting	Ron Kujawski - UMass Extension (retired)
	12	9:00-11:45 12:15-3:00	Basic Plant Pathology Backyard Fruit	Dan Gillman - UMass Extension Sonia Schloeman - UMass Extension
	19	9:00-11:45 12:15-3:00	Lawn Management Turf Insects	Randy Prostack - UMass Extension Pat Vittum - UMass Dept. of Entomology
	26	9:00-11:45 12:15-3:00	Weed Management Vegetables	Randy Prostack - UMass Extension John Howell - UMass Extension (retired)
MARCH	5	9:00-11:45 12:15-3:00	LOCATION: Berkshire Botanical Garden, Stockbridge (3/5 only) Perennials, Annuals, and Bulbs	David Burdick, Daffodils and More
			Pruning Trees & Shrubs	Ron Kujawski - UMass Extension (retired)
	12	9:30-11:45 12:15 - 1:30 1:45 - 3:00	Diagnosing Plant Problems Review for final exam Invasive Plants	Ron Kujawski - UMass Extension (retired) George Kingston - WMMGA Randy Prostack - UMass Extension
	19	9:00-10:30 10:45-11:45 12:15 – 3:00	Wildlife Pests Review for final exam (as needed) Pesticides: What You Need to Know and Why	Jack Sprano – WMMGA George Kingston - WMMGA Bob Childs - UMass Extension
			LOCATION: UMass= Cold Spring Orchard, Belchertown (3/25 only) NOTE: THIS IS A WEDNESDAY	
	25		Fruit Tree Pruning: a 2-hour, hands-on workshop. Sign up for morning (9:30 – 11:30 am) or afternoon (1 – 3 pm) session. Snow/rain date Wednesday April 1.	
APRIL	2	9:00-11:45	FINAL EXAM; Soil Testing demo; IPM demo followed by POTLUCK	
	9		Reserve for Snow Day rescheduling!!!	

6. Please list any past or present memberships in or affiliations with garden clubs, plant societies, or other horticultural groups and any offices held.

 7. Describe any experience in teaching or public speaking.

 8. List any volunteer work experience, community or civic activities.

 9. In addition to gardening, what are your other hobbies or skills (ex. photography, writing, artistic ability, carpentry, computer skills).

 10. Have you ever been employed professionally in the green industry (landscaping, nursery operation, garden center, etc.) or do you hope to start such a business in the future?
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Please read the following carefully and sign below:

I wish to apply for the Master Gardener Training Program beginning Thursday, January 6, 2011.

I understand I must attend classes from **9 to 3 every Thursday from January 6th through March 30th** and will become a certified Master Gardener only when I have:

- Completed the 12 session course and passed the exam.
- Completed 60 volunteer hours by December 20, 2011, fulfilling the requirements in each designated area.
- Paid the non-refundable \$300 tuition fee upon acceptance into the program. Deadline for receipt of tuition is December 20, 2010.

I pledge that upon completion of the WMMGA course and my certification as a Master Gardener, I will actively participate in the activities of the organization, completing a minimum of 15 hours of service in support of WMMGA programs annually. I further pledge that I will not use my MASTER GARDENER title to promote any commercial venture.

Signature

Date