



UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA
Agriculture & Natural Resources

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION • SOLANO COUNTY

501 Texas Street, 1st Floor, Fairfield, CA 94533 Tel. (707) 784-1321 Fax (707) 429-5532



Dear Solano County Resident:

Thank you for your interest in the Master Gardener Program. In the packet you will find an application and some additional information about becoming a certified Master Gardener. The Solano Master Gardener Program is open only to Solano County residents.

The Master Gardener Program is part of the University of California Cooperative Extension. Master Gardeners are non-paid Cooperative Extension staff that are recruited, oriented, trained, and certified as part of an organized volunteer program. The program provides public education in home gardening and basic horticulture. No previous horticultural experience is required for acceptance into the Master Gardener Program, as the training in plant science and horticulture is quite comprehensive. A strong interest in gardening, horticulture, and ecology, along with a strong desire to learn, a commitment to community service, and availability for active participation are the best prerequisites for Master Gardener applicants.

Many exciting programs are going on in Solano County right now. We offer a quarterly gardening newsletter, telephone gardening line, and plant science programs, speaker's bureau, information booths at several Farmers Markets, and school gardens consultations. In addition, Master Gardeners have access to an extensive library of horticultural information, professionals throughout the University of California system, and a chance to meet and network with other passionate gardeners.

The Master Gardener Program is a formal volunteer program with specific training requirements and time commitments from its volunteers. All Master Gardeners must pass the training course. The training consists of 15-16 weekly four-hour sessions, or 60-64 hours of instruction. Classes are held on Fridays from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Solano County. In addition to the training, fifty hours of volunteer service in approved educational outreach activities are required the first year. Twenty five (25) of volunteer outreach and twelve (12) hours of continuing education are required each subsequent year to remain a certified Master Gardener.

While the intent of the Master Gardener Program is to provide service at little or no cost to the public, the training of new Master Gardeners is expensive and must be subsidized in part by each trainee. The tuition for the Master Gardener training course is \$125.00, which includes all lectures, labs, field trip, *California Master Gardener Handbook*, *Pests of the Trees and Landscape Plants* and name badge is used in the training and is provided by the program.

Due to University policy, Master Gardeners must be screened through fingerprinting in order to be accepted as a University of California volunteer. Fingerprints are not shared between any of the agencies, so new prints will have to be obtained, even if you have been fingerprinted in the past. Information about when the fingerprinting will take place will be provided upon acceptance in to the program.

To apply to the Master Gardener Program, please send your application and \$125.00 fee, to **Master Gardener Training Program, U.C. Cooperative Extension, 501 Texas Street, 1st Floor, Fairfield, CA 94533**. Checks should be made payable to **UC REGENTS**. **The deadline to apply for the January 2010 class is October 23, 2009.**

As the number of applicants is always far greater than the number of trainees accepted into the program, we screen the applications; a committee thoroughly reviews each application several times. Final candidates will be notified by mail and will be scheduled for an informal interview early November.

Thank you for your inquiry about the Master Gardener Program. If you have questions, please contact me at the number above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Baumbach'.

Jennifer Baumbach, Program Coordinator
Urban Horticulture-Master Gardener Program
Solano County



UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
SOLANO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM



APPLICATION for 2010

(Please Print or Type)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE (evening) _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____ PHONE (day) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

The following information will be used to select applicants for personal interview. Please answer all questions fully and sign on the reverse side. *Additional sheets may be used if needed.*

I. **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:** What volunteer work have you done: (garden clubs, community services, charities, worked with individual, general public in administration, children's school, etc.)

II. **AVAILABILITY:** Master Gardener activities generally involve time commitments: What times will you be available to volunteer? (mornings, afternoons, evenings, weekends)

III. **APPLICABLE SKILLS:** What skills do you have in public instruction, speaking and publications? What experience do you have in office procedures (phones, typing, computer) and supervision? Any other?

IV. **GARDENING EXPERIENCE:** How long have you gardened and what type of gardening interests you? (Landscape: flowers, bulbs, ornamental shrubs and trees - Growing edibles: vegetables, fruits, berries, herbs)

(please turn over and complete)

V. GARDENING KNOWLEDGE: How much do you know about plant varieties, plant culture or other aspects of gardening?

VI. What specifically interests you about the Master Gardener program?

VII. Additional Comments: _____

*Please submit this completed application **no later** than 5:00 p.m. October 23, 2009 to: Master Gardener Training Program, University of California Cooperative Extension, 501 Texas Street, 1st Floor, Fairfield, California 94533.*

I HAVE READ THE MISSION STATEMENT (*see below*), RESPONSIBILITIES, REQUIREMENTS TO BE A MASTER GARDENER AND PRESENT ACTIVITIES AND I BELIEVE I CAN MAKE THE COMMITMENTS NECESSARY TO BE A SUCCESSFUL MASTER GARDENER.

Signature

Date

The mission of the Master Gardener Program is to assess community needs for home gardening education and develop programs to enhance home gardening experiences.