



Oregon State University Extension Service

## Master Gardener™ Program

# MASTER GARDENER™ TRAINEE APPLICATION

## OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Course

### February 29-May 30, 2012

### Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Thank you for your interest in the Klamath County Oregon State University (OSU) Master Gardener™ Program. The program is entering its nineteenth consecutive year in Klamath County. The OSU Master Gardener™ Program emphasizes plant-based education, environmental stewardship, responsible home gardening practices, and community food partnerships. In exchange for training, individuals who become Master Gardeners contribute time as volunteers, working through the OSU Klamath Basin Research and Extension Center (KBREC). Volunteer work includes helping residents in the Master Gardener Plant Clinic located at the OSU Extension office. The Extension Agent or Program Coordinator in the County Extension office decides how volunteer time can best be utilized. Through community outreach activities, trained volunteers extend research-based gardening information to citizens throughout Klamath County and outlying areas. During 2011, for example, Klamath County Master Gardener volunteers logged thousands of hours lending their expertise, time, and special talents toward a variety of activities and viable community projects. In the Plant Clinic help desk, they assisted hundreds of local residents. Currently, the program has over 50 active volunteers. In order to retain the “Master Gardener” title, individuals are required **each year** to participate in a minimum of 6 hours of recertification training, pass an open-book take-home exam, and provide an additional 25+ hours of volunteer service through the OSU Extension office. *(Please note: The title “Master Gardener” can only be used by certified volunteers when they are engaged in OSU Extension-sponsored and approved activities.)*

### **Part I: Class Training**

Becoming a Master Gardener in Klamath County involves completing an application packet, being accepted into the training class, attending a 13-week horticulture training program, completing weekly reading assignments and take-home quizzes as well as a final open-book exam, and volunteering 42 hours post-training. Topics are taught by OSU faculty, veteran Master Gardeners, and local horticulture experts. **Classes begin on Wednesday, February 29 at the Klamath County Extension office and continue each Wednesday through May 30, 2012.** In mid-May, trainees will receive a take-home exam. The exam will be reviewed on the last day of class. Trainees are expected to score at least 70% on the exam.

### **Several gardening topics are covered during classroom training. The following are some of the Master Gardener classes:**

Basic Botany	Soil Basics	Weed I.D. and Management
Tree Fruits/Pruning	Entomology	Water-wise Gardening
Diagnosing Plant Problems	Composting Basics	Vegetable Gardening
Greenhouse Growing	Plant Diseases	Plant I.D. and Taxonomy

## ***Dismissal of a Master Gardener Volunteer***

A volunteer may be reassigned or dismissed at the sole discretion of OSU Klamath Basin Research and Extension Center. Disregard for the policies and guidelines established by OSU Klamath County Master Gardener™ Program are grounds for dismissal of a Master Gardener Volunteer. Other examples of conduct which could lead to disciplinary action include, but are not limited to: illegal activity; behavior which compromises the health and safety of volunteers, OSU employees, or clientele; being habitually disruptive to the overall program; unwilling or unable to work amicably with agents, program coordinator, and/or volunteer leaders; conduct which is harmful to the Master Gardener program's reputation; or failure to relinquish/rotate leadership roles. The nature and seriousness of the infraction or violation will determine whether the option of reassignment or dismissal should be considered.

Before any official action is taken, the County Extension Agent and/or immediate Extension supervisor should counsel with a volunteer(s) when reassignment or dismissal is being considered. If dismissal is decided by Extension, communication with the volunteer(s) will be done in confidentiality.

## **Part 2: Experiential Learning/Volunteerism “Sharing research-based gardening information”**

Because it is important to practice and cultivate skills, part of the OSU Master Gardener™ Program involves 42+ hours of experiential learning/volunteer “payback” hours. A minimum of 21 hours will be spent working at the Plant Clinic help desk located at the OSU Extension office, 3328 Vandenberg Road, Klamath Falls, OR. The Plant Clinic help desk is where clients call, email, or walk-in with gardening questions. The Plant Clinic is open from May to October during designated hours. Participants must attend 80% of the class time and complete 42 hours of documented volunteer service by October 10, 2012 to become an Oregon State University certified Master Gardener Volunteer and to receive the official name badge. Upon completing the training, volunteer service requirement and graduating from the program, a Master Gardener is certified for one calendar year as an Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener™. For further information about the program, contact the Program Coordinator, Jordan Rainwater, at 541-883-7131.



Oregon State University Extension Service  
**Master Gardener™ Program**

## **MASTER GARDENER™ TRAINEE APPLICATION**

### **OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Course**

---

Please print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers (*please star (\*) the number you would prefer we contact*):

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address (for contact purposes only): \_\_\_\_\_

Can you commit to volunteering 42 hours during 2012?     Yes     No

How did you become aware of the Klamath County Master Gardener training program?

Master Gardener                       Newspaper coverage                       Radio

Word-of-mouth                       Public Service Announcements                       OSU Website

Flier – *Please identify location:* \_\_\_\_\_     Other - *Please identify:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Application deadline: February 10, 2012**

- OSU Master Gardener™ Trainee                      **\$175** (plus 42+ volunteer hours)  
Cost includes textbook, 13-week training session, handouts, and OSU Master Gardener™ badge
- OSU Master Gardener™ Certificate Holder                      **\$350** (no volunteer hours required)  
Cost includes textbook, training session, handouts, and OSU Master Gardener™ certificate

**Payment will be due promptly after notification of acceptance** into the 2012 class. Please do not send a check with your application.

**Mail or hand-deliver pages 3-6 to:** OSU Master Gardener™ Program, Klamath Basin Research and Extension Center, ATTN: Jordan Rainwater, 3328 Vandenberg Road, Klamath Falls, OR 97603.

**Fax pages 3-6 to:** 541-883-4582, ATTN: Jordan Rainwater, Program Coordinator

For further information about the program, contact Jordan Rainwater at 541-883-7131.

# Questionnaire

***Return with application.***

Briefly answer the following questions:

1. List any formal training or education you have in the area of horticulture/home gardening.

---

---

2. Are you currently employed in the horticulture industry? If yes, what is your position?

---

3. Do you currently belong to any garden clubs, or related groups? If yes, please list.

---

4. Describe an area of gardening expertise you might share with other gardeners.

---

5. Why do you want to become an OSU Master Gardener™?

---

---

---

---

6. Do you volunteer for other organizations? If so, what organizations?

---

---

7. List two references and contact information.

---

---

# Letter of Agreement

The Oregon State University Master Gardener™ Program is a voluntary, educational opportunity designed to meet our community's gardening needs. The purpose of the program is to teach interested individuals more about growing plants. Specifically, we aim to provide information and technical assistance about gardening and horticultural practices through qualified, certified volunteers.

To become an OSU Master Gardener™ you must complete the 13-week training program, pass an open-book examination, and volunteer 42 hours toward OSU Master Gardener activities.

I am aware that I must meet the following requirements:

1. Apply and be accepted into the OSU Master Gardener™ Program in Klamath County.
2. Attend 80% of the classroom training.
3. Complete/submit 42 hrs. of documented volunteer service by Oct. 10, 2012.
4. Pass the open-book, take-home exam with a 70% or higher.
5. Demonstrate a commitment to diversity and to ensuring equal opportunity for those wishing to benefit from OSU Extension programs and services.

How would you like your name to appear on your OSU Master Gardener™ badge? (**Last name** not required in full if you prefer to use an initial).

---

First

---

Last

---

I understand the requirements listed above. I agree to follow all policies and procedures of the Oregon State University Master Gardener™ Program in Klamath County. If for reasons beyond my control I am unable to fulfill my commitment, I will make a voluntary, tax deductible donation of \$175 to OSU Extension Service. I understand it is my responsibility to collect a tax donation form from the OSU Ext. office if I want it for tax purposes.

---

**Signature of OSU Master Gardener™ Candidate**

---

**Date**

**Important:** Trained Master Gardener volunteers have an opportunity to join the Klamath County Master Gardener Association (KCMGA) and expand their contributions to the local community by sharing the knowledge they have acquired. The KCMGA sponsors several events throughout the year. It is completely optional to participate in the Master Gardener Chapter activities. The KCMGA is a separate non-profit organization focused on supporting the OSU Extension Master Gardener™ Program.

# Volunteering Opportunities

Consider some of the following, and check (✓) those activities that interest you:

✓ **Plant Clinic:** As mentioned previously, a **minimum of 21 hours must be spent working at the Plant Clinic help desk** located at the OSU Extension office, 3328 Vandenberg Road, Klamath Falls, OR. The Plant Clinic help desk is where clients call, email, or walk-in with gardening questions. The help desk is open from May to October. (For those who are unable to volunteer M-F, you may want to consider volunteering at Plant Clinic at the Saturday Farmers' Market.)

\_\_\_ **Klamath Rotary Production Garden:** During training, volunteers start seedlings in the greenhouse and then transfer plants to the Klamath Rotary Production Garden (a community food partnership), as well as help plant, weed and harvest produce throughout the season.

\_\_\_ **Educational Booths:** Volunteers answer gardening questions and program questions at public events, such as the Tulelake-Butte Valley Fair, Klamath Falls Farmers' Market, Third Thursday, Farm Expo, Migratory Bird Day, etc.

\_\_\_ **Junior Master Gardener Summer Camp:** Volunteers participate in a Junior Master Gardener Summer Camp held at the OSU Extension office, 3328 Vandenberg Road, Klamath Falls during the 2012 summer. The day camp is open to area youth. **Please note that this volunteer opportunity requires a Criminal Background Check.**

\_\_\_ **OSU Extension Grounds:** Volunteers maintain and beautify the OSU Extension grounds. Tasks include pruning, weeding, planting, and so forth.

\_\_\_ **Spring Fair:** Volunteers assist the Klamath County Master Gardener Association with their annual fundraiser, Spring Fair. The Fair is held on the first Saturday in June. There are a variety of volunteering opportunities.

\_\_\_ **Education in Schools:** Volunteers are needed to assist OSU faculty in teaching basic gardening techniques to area youth, K-12. **Please note that in some cases volunteering in school-related events may require a Criminal Background Check.**

*Please note: Any participation as an OSU Master Gardener in any activity not previously stated must be reported to the Program Coordinator at the Klamath County Extension office at least two weeks prior to the activity for approval.*