

2009 Master Gardener Volunteer Program

Are you interested? The Leon County Extension of University of Florida IFAS is a cooperatively funded educational program to provide Leon County citizens with solutions they can use in everyday life. We provide information and technical assistance on environmental issues; 4-H and other youth development issues; nutrition, health, food safety, personal finance, and other individual and family well-being issues.

We are looking for Leon County citizens who want to participate in our Master Gardener volunteer program. The main focus of this program is to help other people learn to have more Florida-Friendly yards, yards that incorporate the nine principles of our Florida Yards & Neighborhoods program, <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/> We will give you a considerable amount of training, so in the process you learn much more about plants and gardening in north Florida yourself.

Training: Monthly meetings, from 9:00 a.m – 1:00 p.m. (normally the second Thursday of each month). AND monthly workdays in the demonstration garden (normally the third Monday of each month). You will be given homework assignments and resources, which will be posted on our website. Part of the class will be outside, hands-on in the garden... you must be able to tolerate the weather and do the normal things a gardener does... dig, plant, weed, spread mulch, prune, etc.

Participation required:

- Attendance and participation in all of the monthly meetings/trainings. If more than 3 are missed, you will be dropped from the program.
- Total of 75 volunteer hours, as explained in more detail below...
- Attendance and participation in all of the monthly garden workdays. (12 x 3 = 36 hours. If less than 36 hours, the time must be made up in one of the activities below. If more than 3 of the workdays are missed, you may be dropped from the program.)
- An additional 39 hours volunteer service from the below activities:
 - Additional demonstration garden work
 - Making group presentations on Florida Yards & Neighborhoods (FYN) subjects.
 - Training with an experienced Master Gardener and learning to help answer phone calls in the office.
 - Working with existing Master Gardeners in making FYN site visits or consultations.
 - Working with the 4-H program in their school or club horticulture activities.

Certification received:

Master Gardener certification will be given to you one year from the time you start your training, provided that you have successfully completed the participation requirements above. If you have not completed the requirements, you will have 3 additional months to complete your requirements or you will be dropped from the program. Once you complete your certification, you are encouraged to continue in the MG program, attending monthly meetings, participating in the monthly garden days, participating in other volunteer activities, and participating in a variety of other educational events and training opportunities. Current card-holding Master Gardeners receive a discount at many local garden centers. So that's an added benefit to being certified as a MG'er.

Personal Enjoyment and Fulfillment:

You will meet a number of very nice people with similar interests in the MG program. You will learn many new plants and techniques that you can use in your home landscape and garden. You will also have the opportunity to make a difference in the community through your volunteer work, pardon the expression, "to shape the local landscape" in a more environmentally friendly manner.

2009-early 2010 Schedule

(Topics may change some, depending on needs and speed of advancement.)

Feb 12 Monthly meeting: Planting, Soils, Mulching
Feb 16 Demonstration Garden Workday
Mar 12 Monthly meeting: Watering Efficiently, Fertilizing Appropriately
Mar 16 Demonstration garden workday
Apr 9 Monthly meeting: Right Plant, Right Place in the Demo Garden
Apr 20 Demonstration garden workday
May 7 Monthly meeting: Pruning, How Plants Work (Basic Botany)
May 17 Demonstration garden workday
June 11 Monthly meeting: Lawns
June 15 Demonstration garden workday
July 9 Monthly meeting: Trees
July 20 Demonstration garden workday
Aug 13 Monthly meeting: Managing Yard Pests Responsibly
Aug 17 Demonstration garden workday
Sept 10 Monthly meeting: Vegetables & Herbs
Sept 21 Demonstration garden workday
Oct 8 Monthly meeting: Right Plant, Right Place in the Demo Garden
Oct 19 Demonstration garden workday
Nov 12 Monthly meeting: Recycling, Providing for Wildlife
Nov 16 Demonstration garden workday
Dec 10 Monthly meeting: Invasive Plants
Dec 14 Demonstration garden workday
Jan 13, 2010 Monthly meeting: Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Checklist
Jan 18, 2010 Demonstration garden workday
Feb 11, 2010 Monthly meeting: Planting, Soils, Mulching
Feb 16, 2010 Demonstration garden workday

If you're interested, please complete the application form and return it as soon as possible.