



**Oregon State**  
University

**Extension Service – Hood River County**

Oregon State University  
2990 Experiment Station Drive  
Hood River, Oregon, 97031

P 541-386-3343 | F 541-386-3343  
[extension.oregonstate.edu/hoodriver](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/hoodriver)

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Dear Gardener:

Thank you for your interest in becoming an OSU Master Gardener™ in Hood River County. This letter provides a bit of background information about the program and explains the program requirements and application procedure.

Master Gardeners are volunteers trained by OSU Extension Service staff and specialists. As a volunteer of OSU Extension Service, Master Gardeners *provide information and technical assistance about gardening to the public through their volunteer service*. To become an OSU Master Gardener, you must complete the training program, pass a take home final examination following training, and volunteer a specified number of hours of public service through the Master Gardener program. More details about these requirements are provided below.

We often receive the question “Do you promote organic (sustainable, alternative) gardening?” to which the answer is a qualified “yes”. Concepts of resource sustainability are an integral part of the Master Gardener training. Master Gardeners are volunteer staff of Oregon State University. In that role, they provide unbiased, research-based information to the gardening public. The goal is to provide the best information available, give all sides of the story, and let the gardeners make their own choices.

The program consists of two parts and both parts must be completed to become a certified OSU Master Gardener. The first part is classroom training which teaches volunteers about botany, soils, insect, weed and disease identification and control, diagnosis of plant problems, and other local topics to prepare you to answer home gardening questions. You are required to attend all of the training courses your first year as a Master Gardener.

Training will be held at Hood River Valley Christian Church located at 975 Indian Creek Road in Hood River beginning January 29, 2020 and ends April 4, 2020. Classes will be held on consecutive Wednesday evenings from 6 – 9 p.m. and from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on these Saturdays: February 22, March 7 and 14, and from 1-4 PM on February 8<sup>th</sup>, and from 9-1 on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Evening classes will have one 15-minute break and Saturday classes will have a morning and afternoon break and lunch from 12:00 – 1:00 pm. Each Saturday noon break will be dedicated to providing information about gardening projects for which you can volunteer in the Central Gorge community. So please plan to bring a brown bag lunch.

You are also required to attend a short orientation meeting on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 from 6:00-7:30 pm at the Extension office. During the meeting, you will receive an introduction to the program and meet your mentor, a veteran Master Gardener who will help guide you during the training and throughout your first year as a Master Gardener. This orientation will also give you the opportunity to ask additional questions you may have about the program.

The second part of the program includes continuing your garden education by volunteering in plant clinics and extending home gardening information to others in the community. You are required to complete 40 hours of classroom training, 12 hours in plant clinics, and 28 hours of additional service. Service hours can be spent at any of several Master Gardener projects.

The cost for the 10-week training is \$165.00, which includes the Sustainable Gardening Master Gardener

Handbook and all classroom materials. If you find the cost of the training would prohibit you from taking the training, full or partial scholarships are available. If you wish to be considered for a scholarship, please note this on the application and contact Megan Wickersham for more information. We also encourage you to join the Central Gorge Master Gardener Association. Dues are \$10 per year, however this is not required but recommended. The statewide Oregon Master Gardener Association dues are waived the first year but \$7 every year after.

The required application materials are enclosed. Please take time to read the documents before completing them. Return your completed application and forms to the OSU Extension Office in Hood River by January 10, 2020. Once the deadline passes, I will contact you regarding a short interview and acceptance of your application.

**Your application must include the following completed and signed documents and payment:**

- 2020 OSU Master Gardener Application
- Master Gardener Position Description
- Code of Conduct Agreement
- Conditions of Volunteer Service (Activity = OSU Extension Master Gardener)
- Ethnicity Form (optional)
- \$165 Training fee – Check made payable to the *OSU Extension Service* (Fee is refundable if you withdraw before January 10<sup>th</sup>)
- \$10 CGMGA dues (optional but highly recommended) – Check made payable to *Central Gorge Master Gardener Association*

Please return all of the above to: OSU Extension Service, Hood River County, 2990 Experiment Station Drive, Hood River, OR 97031 by **January 10, 2020**. You will be notified by mid-January regarding your application.

I am looking forward to receiving your application and seeing you at the OSU Master Gardener training!

Sincerely,

Megan Wickersham  
Master Gardener Program Assistant  
OSU Extension Service/Hood River County  
541-386-3343 ext. 38257

