



## The Texas Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program

The Texas Master Gardener Program is a volunteer development program of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Master Gardener volunteers receive in-depth horticultural training. In return, they provide volunteer service through AgriLife Extension by delivering horticultural education to their communities. Program participants should be able to communicate with the public by telephone, personal contact, as a speaker or through written correspondence. Master Gardener volunteers serve as “horticultural docents” supervised by AgriLife Extension personnel who assign, review, and facilitate volunteer work.

### *Three steps to become a certified Texas Master Gardener*

#### **Step 1:** Complete a Texas Master Gardener training course

- receive a minimum of fifty (50) hours of instruction during the training
- pass an examination at the end of training

#### **Step 2:** Volunteer Requirement

- required to give 50 hours of **volunteer** service within the Big Country Master Gardener-approved projects in Taylor County and surrounding areas.
- to be completed within **one year** of the final training class date
- will receive 1 full year of membership with Big Country Master Gardener Association once initial volunteer service hours are completed. (\$40 value)

#### **Step 3:** Re-certification Process

- Retaining the title Texas Master Gardener is an annual process that requires:
  - o 20 Volunteer Community Service hours each year.
  - o 10 Continuing Education hours each year.

#### **Important information:**

- Cost of the training is \$250.00, payable by January 28, 2026, following acceptance into the Master Gardener Program.
- Classes run February 5th through April 28th. See the page with the tentative schedule at the end of this application.
- Most classes will be at the Taylor County AgriLife Extension office on the Taylor County Fairgrounds.
- Must be 18 or older to take the course, unless accompanied by a parent who is also taking the course.
- Refunds will be granted only if requested before the first day of training. Refund amounts will be minus the cost of the required training manual and the mandatory background check fee.

**Meet 'N Greet** – Come ask questions at our Meet 'N Greet on Tuesday, January 13th, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm – at the Taylor County Extension office.

Please contact the Taylor County Extension Office with any questions at (325) 672-6048.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Dawnyel Luckie

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## Texas Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program – 2026 Application

*Application Deadline: January 15, 2026*

Training begins February 5th and runs through April 28th. Class size is limited to 25 members. The cost of the training is \$250.00, due by January 28th (upon acceptance into the program). A background check is required for all applicants participating in the Master Gardener program. All classes will be held at the Taylor County Extension office located at 1982 Lytle Way in Abilene. See the tentative training schedule below for the dates, times, and topics for each class.

**1. Applicant’s Information:**

Legal Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Land line or work): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Why do you want to become a volunteer in the Extension Master Gardener program? (Useful training, increase skills/knowledge, give back to the community, personal accomplishment, creative use of time, etc.)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3. What is your gardening/horticulture and related fields experience and/or training?**

Include experience or knowledge of vegetables, herbs, roses, composting, propagation, turf, trees, fruit, nuts, perennials, etc. When did you start gardening, have you worked professionally in horticulture or a related field, what is your favorite thing about gardening, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. **Advertising info: How did you hear we were accepting applications at this time? Did you receive an e-mail, see it posted on Facebook, see it on our website, see it in the newspaper, hear about it at one of our training events, a friend told you applications were being accepted, Etc?**

Friend \_\_\_\_ Radio \_\_\_\_ Facebook \_\_\_\_ Newspaper \_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_

5. **Volunteer and/or community service:** (Limit to within the past 5 years)

List the organization and what you do/did: (school/youth group/church/hospital/civic group)

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_

6. **Are you presently employed, and if so, where?**

\_\_\_\_\_

7. **When are you most likely available to volunteer?** Place an X or check to let us know when you are more likely able to volunteer at events such as planting/cleaning demo beds, helping with school programs, helping conduct educational programs, assisting in bi-annual plant sales.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Mornings							
Afternoons							
Evenings							

8. **Please rate the statements below on a scale from 1 to 5**

(1 = *Not Important* to 5 = *Most Important*)

- I'm taking this training because I want to make friends with like-minded people. \_\_\_\_\_

- I'm taking this training because I want to be part of a volunteer organization. \_\_\_\_\_

- I am only taking this training for my own education. I am not interested in Volunteering or joining the Big Country Master Gardener Association. \_\_\_\_\_

## 9. Recap of Requirements

- I wish to apply to the Big Country Master Gardener Association's Master Gardener Training, sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.
- If accepted, I understand I must pay a \$250 training fee for materials and speakers by January 28, 2026.
- I understand there are no refunds after the start of the first session.
- I understand I must attend at least 10 of the 12 training sessions plus attend and pass the final exam to become a Master Gardener **INTERN**.
- I understand that after I finish the training, I must then complete 50 hours of volunteer work with the Big Country Master Gardener Association in a twelve-month time period, before becoming a **certified Texas Master Gardener**.
- I understand that being a certified Texas Master Gardener is an annual process that has re-certification requirements.
- I understand that the Master Gardener program is a program sponsored by the Taylor County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and that as a Certified Texas Master Gardener, I represent the Taylor County office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M System and will adhere to their policies and guidelines.

**Applicant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed application to Taylor Co. Extension Office (Pages 2-4 only) 1) by mail, 2) in person or 3) you may e-mail it to: Dawnyel.Luckie@ag.tamu.edu. Our mailing address is: Big Country Master Gardener Association / 1982 Lytle Way / Abilene, TX 79602.

Questions may be directed to the Taylor County Extension office at 325-672-6048 or via e-mail to: Dawnyel.Luckie@ag.tamu.edu.

***Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in any AgriLife Extension activity are encouraged to contact the Taylor County Extension Office to discuss specific needs.***

*Educational programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating*





# Big Country Master Gardener Spring Training 2025

## Tentative Schedule

*(Dates are subject to change due to speaker availability)*

Session	Date	Topics
Session 1	<b>Thursday</b> , February 6 6-9 PM	Orientation Intro to Soil
Session 2	<b>Thursday</b> , February 13 6-9 PM	*Vegetables & Herbs
Session 3	<b>Tuesday</b> , February 18 6-9 PM	Plant Growth & Development
Session 4	<b>Tuesday</b> , February 25 6-9 PM	*Fruit Trees, Berries & Pecans
Session 5	<b>Tuesday</b> , March 4 6-9 PM	Turfgrass Program
Session 6	<b>Tuesday</b> , March 18 6-9 PM	*Rainwater Harvesting
Session 7	<b>Saturday</b> , March 22 9 AM - 4 PM	Plant Propagation
Session 8	<b>Thursday</b> , March 27 6-9 PM	*Entomology *Plant Pathology
Session 9	<b>Tuesday</b> , April 1 6-9 PM	Landscape Principles
Session 10	<b>Saturday</b> , April 5 9 AM - 4 PM	TBD
Session 11	<b>Thursday</b> , April 10 6-9 PM	Plant ID Plant Sale Prep
Session 12	<b>Tuesday</b> , April 15 6-9 PM	*EarthKind
Session 13	<b>Thursday</b> , April 24 6-9 PM	*TBD
Final Exam	<b>Tuesday</b> , April 29 6-9 PM	Final Exam / Graduation

**\* Denotes CEU training for current certified Master Gardeners/2024 Interns**

Updated 12/02/2024