

Thank you for your interest in the UConn Extension Master Gardener Program!

The Master Gardener program is a service-oriented program developed to help Extension educators assist non-commercial gardeners. This program has a strong focus on volunteerism and educational outreach and enhances UConn's horticultural education offerings statewide.

Students enrolled in this program receive training in an extensive range of horticultural and environmental topics, including botany, plant pathology, entomology, integrated pest management (IPM), herbaceous and woody ornamentals, edibles, turf grass, invasive plants, and diagnostic techniques for the home gardener.

The classroom portion of the program runs January through April. Each topic consists of three to four hours of online education to be completed before the class date and a half-day in-class session providing more depth and application of information to real-life situations. The classroom portion is on the same day each week from 9 AM - 1 PM.

Following the formal classroom instruction, Master Gardener interns receive hands-on training in the UConn Extension offices or the Bartlett Arboretum; they are supervised in researching a broad range of horticultural concerns, including identifying insects and plants, diagnosing plant diseases, and providing sound science-based cultural recommendations. In addition, interns engage in a wide range of community outreach projects. Examples include community gardens, horticultural therapy, educational booths for programs ranging from Earth Day celebrations to county fairs, and working with the CT Invasive Plant Working Group, just to name a few.

Certified Master Gardeners often remain involved with the program for many years after their certification, both in the community working on garden projects or speaking to interested groups, and in the offices assisting new interns with their training.

Enclosed please find information on the application process as well as the application form, program requirements, class locations, and fee. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact your local county coordinator (see page 6).

Best wishes,

Sarah Bailey
State Program Coordinator
UConn Extension Master Gardener Program
860-570-9023 sarah.bailey@uconn.edu

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2018 UConn Extension Master Gardener Program

APPLICATION PROCESS

- A completed application must be postmarked **by Friday, November 3, 2017**, and submitted to the location where you wish to take classes; either at one of the County Extension Offices or the Bartlett Arboretum. ***Please see the list of locations on page 6.***
- Notification of acceptance will be emailed by **Monday, November 13, 2017.**

If accepted into the program, payment of **\$425.00** must be posted or postmarked no later than **Monday, December 4, 2017.**

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- 100+ class hours. Classroom training occurs on-line as well as one half-day per week for 16 weeks, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, January – April 2018 at one of five locations listed on page 6.
- 60 hours of in-service and outreach training at one of nine locations (County Extension Offices or the Bartlett Arboretum)

COURSE WORK

- Subject quizzes and graded exam
- Tree/Shrub/Vine identification and research project due by the end of **August 2018.**
- Attendance at one of five summer diagnostic sessions
- Final diagnostic exam at the end of in-service training
- Final essay due at the end of **September 2018**

IN-SERVICE OFFICE AND OUTREACH

- A minimum of 30 in-office hours in the Master Gardener office at a UConn Extension Center or the Bartlett Arboretum **during weekday business hours** working with the public answering horticultural questions and researching gardening problems. This work will be under the supervision of a Master Gardener coordinator or volunteer mentor.
- 30 hours approved educational outreach and/or community project(s).
- All 60 hours must be completed by the end of **September 2018.**

2018 UConn Extension Master Gardener Program Application

Classes will start the week of January 7, 2018

Type or print clearly, complete all data requested, attach additional sheets if necessary. This application must be postmarked no later than **Friday, November 3, 2017**.

Send application to the location where you wish to take your class (see page 6).

For further information, contact your county's Master Gardener Program Coordinator.

Print or type:

Name _____

Street Address _____

Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone: (Primary) _____ (Secondary) _____

Email _____ **(print clearly as all further notifications regarding the program will be sent via email.)**

Employment History

Are you currently employed? Yes ___ No ___

Employer _____ Position _____

Address _____

Full time _____ Part time _____ Seasonal _____

Is this a garden center, greenhouse, and/or landscape firm, etc.? Yes ___ No ___

If no longer working, what was your profession?

Education

High School # years _____ Technical/Business # years _____ College # years _____

Major _____ Degree(s) _____

This class requires online access. Do you use a computer? Yes ___ No ___

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____ Address: _____

Phone (H) _____ (w) _____ (c) _____ Relationship _____

Have you ever applied to the UConn Extension Master Gardener Program before? Yes_____ No_____

This initial Master Gardener volunteer training requires a nine-month commitment leading to certification. It can be the gateway to a fulfilling on-going volunteer experience.

Are you available **weekdays between the hours of 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM May through September** to fulfill the required 30-hour office outreach requirement?

Yes_____ No_____

How did you learn about the UConn Master Gardener Program?

Have you ever been certified by any other horticultural program? If so, which one(s)?

Volunteer/Community Experience

An essential element of the UConn Extension Master Gardener program is working with and helping others in the community on a volunteer basis. Describe any community and/or volunteer experience(s) you have had (i.e. school, church, working with seniors or youth, parks, public office). These experiences need not be of a horticultural nature. If you have never had the opportunity to volunteer, please suggest an area where you would like to volunteer, now that you have the time.

Outreach

What type of work would you choose to do for your community outreach? Please check all that apply.
This is not a commitment, but rather a chance for us to determine students' interests.

Work with community gardens _____ Speak to groups _____ Computer/Data Entry _____

Write newsletter/newspaper articles _____ Host plant clinics/MG booths _____

Educational gardening _____ Working with youth/specialty groups _____

Other (please note) _____

ESSAY

Certified Master Gardener volunteers share their knowledge and experience with individuals and groups in the local gardening community. Write a short essay on why you wish to become a Certified Master Gardener volunteer. You can include life experiences that may enhance this program, how you see your involvement in community outreach, and any special qualities you might bring to the program. Please print or type. (250 words or less) You may use an additional sheet of paper if desired.

2018 Class Locations and Dates

The 2018 Master Gardener Program will be held in five locations throughout the state. Be sure to pick the location and day that works best for you and **check** the location where you would like to take the program, indicating a 1st and 2nd choice on the line provided before the location.

Submit ONE application **to your first choice** of locations at the address listed below. Submitting applications to multiple sites DOES NOT increase your chances for acceptance.

_____ **MONDAY CLASS** The Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford, CT 06903

Coordinator:

Patricia Carroll (203) 322-6971 ext. 18, patricia.carroll@uconn.edu

_____ **TUESDAY CLASS** New London County Extension Center, 562 New London Turnpike, Norwich, CT 06360-6599

Coordinators:

- New London County – Paul Armond (860) 885-2823, paul.armond@uconn.edu
- Middlesex County – Gail Reynolds (860) 345-4511, gail.reynolds@uconn.edu

_____ **WEDNESDAY CLASS** Litchfield County Extension Center, 843 University Drive, Torrington, CT 06790

Coordinators:

- Litchfield County – David Lewis (860) 626-6240, david.lewis@uconn.edu
- Hartford County – Sarah Bailey (860) 570-9023, sarah.bailey@uconn.edu

_____ **THURSDAY CLASS** New Haven County Extension Center, 305 Skiff Street, North Haven, CT 06473-4451

Coordinators:

- New Haven County – Judith Hsiang (203) 407-3167, judith.hsiang@uconn.edu
- Fairfield County – Sandi Wilson (203) 207-3261, sandra.wilson@uconn.edu

_____ **FRIDAY CLASS** Tolland County Extension Center, 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT 06066-4599

Coordinators:

- Tolland County – Jean Madden-Hennessey (860) 870-6934
jean.madden-hennessey@uconn.edu
- Windham County – John LoRusso (860) 774-9600, john.lorusso@uconn.edu

Enrollment in the UConn Extension Master Gardener program is limited and competitive. We may conduct telephone or personal interviews.

The Master Gardener Program periodically documents classes through photography and video for publicity purposes. Registration in the UConn Extension Master Gardener Program includes permission to photograph you and use your image in publicity *materials unless you inform the photographer or coordinator that you do not wish to have your photograph taken.*

Partial scholarships based on financial need may be available. Please check if you would like to receive a scholarship application. _____

APPLICATION SUBMISSION/APPROVAL DEADLINES:

This application must be postmarked no later than **Friday, November 3, 2017**. Send **ONE** application to the address listed on Page 6 for the class location of your choice. Only one application per person will be accepted.

For maps of County Extension Offices go to: <http://extension.uconn.edu/>

For directions to the Bartlett Arboretum go to: <http://bartlettarboretum.org/>

Monday, November 13, 2017

Notification confirming acceptance to the program will be emailed out by this date. *Please check your email.* Those not accepted will also be notified.

Monday, December 4, 2017

For those accepted in the program, your confirmation and payment of \$425.00 must be posted or postmarked no later than this date. ***Do not send payment unless you receive a letter of acceptance.***

I acknowledge that I have read and understand all of the above.

Signature _____ Date _____



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