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

The Master Gardener program is a service-oriented program that helps 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 2021 program, which runs January through April, will be entirely online. Each topic consists of three to four hours of educational material to be reviewed before the class date and a weekly online session providing more depth and application of information to real-life situations. The classroom portion runs from 9 AM - 1 PM. There are five class cohorts available; each affiliated with one or more Master Gardener offices. The Haddam-based class will be held on Saturdays in 2021.

Following the formal online classroom instruction, Master Gardener interns receive hands-on training in the nine Master Gardener offices; 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. The format and extent of this portion of the program will be determined by the state’s level of recovery from the current COVID-19 outbreak.

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
860-409-9053 sarah.bailey@uconn.edu
2021 UConn Extension Master Gardener Program

APPLICATION PROCESS

- A completed application must be postmarked by Friday, October 16, 2020, and submitted to the location where you wish to take classes; either at one of the county Extension Centers or the Bartlett Arboretum. Please see the list of locations on page 6.

- Notification of acceptance will be emailed by Friday, November 13, 2020.

If accepted into the program, registration must be completed and payment of $450.00 posted or postmarked no later than Friday, December 4, 2020.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- 100+ class hours. Classroom training occurs on-line for 16 weeks, with both independent online course work and an online class session 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, January – April 2021 at one of five locations listed on page 6. The Haddam class is a Saturday class.

- 60 hours of in-service and outreach training at one of nine locations (County Extension Offices or the Bartlett Arboretum).

- The classroom portion of this class is entirely online, with prerecorded lectures and weekly videoconferences. Access to a computer and a reliable internet connection is essential. You will need basic computer skills, such as knowing how to download files and search online.

COURSE WORK

- Subject quizzes and graded exam
- Tree/Shrub/Vine identification and research project due by the end of August 2021.
- 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 2021.

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, primarily 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. Some hours may be available in the community during non-business hours.

- 30 hours approved educational outreach and/or community project(s).

- All 60 hours must be completed by the end of September 2021.
2021 UConn Extension Master Gardener Program Application

Classes will start the week of January 11, 2021

Type or print clearly, complete all data requested, attach additional sheets if necessary. This application must be postmarked no later than Friday, October 16, 2020.

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 _____

• Do you have a UConn NetID? Yes_____ No _____
  (You may have a UConn NetID if you have previously taken a class or worked at UConn)
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.

One requirement is to complete 30 hours, primarily in a Master Gardener office. Do you have availability to fulfill that requirement on weekdays May through September?

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 (e.g. 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.
2021 Class Locations and Dates

The 2021 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  Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, 151 Brookdale Road,
Stamford, CT 06903

Coordinator:

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

WEDNESDAY CLASS  Hartford County Extension Center, 270 Farmington Avenue, # 262,
Farmington CT, 06032

Coordinators:

• Hartford County – Sarah Bailey (860) 409-9053, sarah.bailey@uconn.edu
• Litchfield County – Michelle Winkler (860) 626-6240, michelle.winkler@uconn.edu

THURSDAY CLASS  Fairfield County Extension Center, 67 Stony Hill Road,
Bethel, CT 06801-3056

Coordinators:

• Fairfield County – Sandi Wilson (203) 207-3261, sandra.wilson@uconn.edu
• New Haven County – Eric Larson (203) 407-3167, roderick.larson@uconn.edu

FRIDAY CLASS  Windham County Extension Center, 139 Wolf Den Road,
Brooklyn, CT 06234-1729

Coordinator:

• Tolland and Windham Counties – John LoRusso (860) 774-9600, john.lorusso@uconn.edu

SATURDAY CLASS  Middlesex County Extension Center, 1066 Saybrook Road, Box 70,
Haddam, CT 06438

Coordinators:

• Middlesex County – Gail Reynolds (860) 345-4511, gail.reynolds@uconn.edu
• New London County – Paul Armond (860) 885-2823, paul.armond@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, October 16, 2020. 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/

Friday, November 13, 2020
Notification confirming acceptance to the program will be emailed out by this date. Please check your email, including your spam filter. Those not accepted will also be notified.

Friday, December 4, 2020

For those accepted in the program, your registration must be completed and payment of $450.00 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 ___________

An Equal Opportunity Employer and Program Provider