



Ohio State University Extension
Athens County
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Dear Potential Master Gardener Volunteer,

At some point this past year you indicated an interest in the Master Gardener Volunteer Program. Enclosed you will find some information regarding the Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program, along with a Master Gardener volunteer application form.

In Athens County, Ohio State University Extension Master Gardeners Volunteers (MGV) provide horticultural education, advice, information and diagnostic help to the citizens of the county. The Master Gardener Volunteer Program involves several steps. The first step is to fill out an application to become a Master Gardener. Applications are reviewed by a committee and candidates selected. Selected candidate then attend an interview/orientation session. Upon acceptance into the program, the next step is to attend the training classes. To become a certified Master Gardener, the participant has to complete the training, pass the required exams, and then volunteer 50 hours of service in Master Gardener educational activities.

All potential volunteers will: (1) receive a position description; (2) complete an application and return it to the county Extension office; (3) have references collected by Extension professionals; (4) complete an interview; (5) submit to a criminal history fingerprint record check (this MUST be completed before the end of training classes); and (6) agree to and sign the Volunteer Standards of Behavior form. In addition, each potential MGV receives a copy of the (7) Master Gardener Volunteer Program Policy Statement and (8) agree to and sign the Master Gardener Volunteer Pest Management Information Policy.

Please know that all personal information is kept secure and is kept on file for a minimum of three years following the receipt of your application or the termination of your involvement as an OSU Extension MGV (whichever is longest). The release of information will follow The Ohio State University and Ohio State University Extension operating procedures and will be in accordance with Ohio law.

Master Gardener training will be held at the Athens County Extension office beginning in February 2012. Training classes will be held on Wednesday evenings beginning Wednesday, February 15 and continuing for 10 consecutive Wednesday evenings until Wednesday, April 18. There will also be two Saturday sessions; Saturday, March 17 and Saturday, April 21. Weeknight classes will run from 6:00 pm until 9:15 pm and Saturday sessions will run from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Topics that will be covered in the training include: Plant Botany, Soils, Fertilizers, Basic Entomology, Houseplants, Plant Diagnostic Methods, Plant Pathology, Organic

Production, Herbaceous ornamentals, Fruits, Pruning Fruit, Plant Propagation, Wildlife Issues, Composting, Integrated Pest Management, Lawns, Herbs, Vegetable Production, Woody Ornamentals, and Current Issues in Gardening. The cost of Master Gardener training is \$95, which includes the Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Manual, additional handouts, and snacks/refreshments for each class session.

Currently applications are being accepted for the Athens County Extension Master Gardener program through **January 20, 2012**. Applications should be filled out and returned to the Athens County Extension office. Applications can be returned via email to: athe@ag.osu.edu, by U.S. Postal mail to Athens County Extension, 280 West Union Street, Athens, or can be dropped off at the office Monday – Thursday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

An interview/orientation session will be held on Wednesday, February 1. Program applicants must attend this session. The session will begin at 6:00 pm at the Athens County Extension office and last for approximately an hour and a half. The signed Standards of Behavior and Pest Management Information forms can be turned in at that time.

Class size will be limited to 20 participants. Upon acceptance into the Master Gardener class and training, applicants can pay the \$95 training fee.

Contact the Athens County Extension office at (740) 593-8555 if you have questions or need more information.

Sincerely,



Rory Lewandowski
Extension Educator, Ag/NR