

## How Do You Become a Henrico County Master Gardener?

1. **Call the Henrico Extension Office** at (804) 501-5160 to request an application packet.
2. **Print an application at:** [www.co.henrico.va.us/extension](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/extension).
3. **Fill out the application form**, and return it to the office by the last Friday in October.
4. **Wait for notification of selection.** You will be notified by mid to late November if you are selected to participate. We have 20-24 Master Gardener training spaces available each year.
5. **Attend 50 hours of structured classroom instruction**, from late January through March. Classroom materials cost \$135 and include a 600+ page reference manual. Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and are conducted by Extension staff and a variety of local specialists.
6. **Serve your volunteer internship of 50 hours** between April 1 and November 15.
7. **Graduate in December as a Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener (VCE-MG).** You can re-certify annually by completing 12 hours of additional training and 20 hours of service.



Master gardeners have a vital role in the county providing customers with current, reliable horticultural information.

For an application packet please contact the Henrico Extension Office at:

**(804) 501-5160**

Henrico County Extension Office  
8600 Dixon Powers Drive  
P.O. Box 90775  
Henrico, VA 23273-0775

[www.offices.ext.vt.edu/henrico](http://www.offices.ext.vt.edu/henrico)  
[www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener](http://www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener)

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistance to participate in this activity, please contact the Henrico Extension Office during business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at least 5 days prior to the event.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Alan L. Grant, Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Interim Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; Wendi Mersie, Interim Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State, Petersburg.

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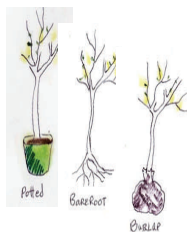
## Would You Like To Become A Henrico Master Gardener Volunteer?

### Here are the Tools you will need!



## Is the Program for YOU?

**Do you enjoy gardening but would like to learn more?** You will learn about lawn care, flowers, vegetable gardening, tree and shrub care, diagnosing plant problems, as well as insect and pest management.



**Do you enjoy sharing your experiences, interests and knowledge of gardening with others?** You will answer phone inquiries, host exhibit booths at garden centers and special events, and provide many other educational opportunities to the public.

**Do you have a few hours a week to commit to becoming trained as a Master Gardener and use that training to assist others?** Master Gardener trainees spend 50 hours in the classroom and then commit to a 50-hour internship with the Henrico Extension Office. The training and internship (100 hours total) are completed within 1 year.



## What are Your Rewards?

Your rewards will not be monetary. Master Gardener volunteers are non-paid staff who work jointly with paid staff.

### Your rewards instead will be priceless:

**Gratitude from the extension staff and local citizens whom you assist.** Master Gardeners serve thousands of citizens annually and are a valued, integral part of Extension's education mission.

**A foundation of knowledge** gained both through formal training and hands-on experience researching and problem solving.

**The status and recognition** that comes from earning the title of Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener. Strong and active volunteer involvement is one of the most important and unique aspects of VCE.

**Ongoing opportunities for training and socialization.** You can remain an active member by recertifying annually with 12 hours of advanced training and 20 hours of volunteer service.



## The Virginia Cooperative Extension

Cooperative Extension, established in 1914 by the Smith Lever Act, serves as a link between land-grant universities and the community. In Virginia, Virginia Tech and Virginia State serve as the land-grant universities, providing informational outreach to citizens on topics such as agriculture & natural resources, family & consumer sciences, and 4-H youth. The universities house diagnostic laboratories, scientists, specialists, and research facilities. The staff provides accurate, up-to-date research-based information on a wide variety of topics. Extension agents are university staff stationed in the community to disseminate the research findings. Extension offices in 107 counties and cities in Virginia serve to "extend" to the public information developed on campuses and research stations and improve lives.

## The Master Gardener Program

The Master Gardener program was first created in 1972 in Washington State to meet the enormous demand of information requests from "home gardeners." Since then, the program has spread to 48 states including Virginia. Henrico County began its Master Gardener program in 1981 and currently has over 100 active members. Master Gardeners act as volunteer educators, working with the community to encourage and promote environmentally sound horticultural practices.