

## What is a Master Gardener Volunteer?

The Master Gardener Volunteer Program provides intensive training in horticulture to interested gardeners who then volunteer their time assisting in various ways. Master Gardener Volunteers provide such educational services to their communities as: answering gardening questions from the public; conducting plant clinics; gardening activities with children, senior citizens, or disabled persons; beautifying the community; developing community or demonstration gardens; and other horticultural activities with educational programs and activities in Greene County.

### How did the Master Gardener Volunteer Program originate?

The Master Gardener program originated in Seattle, Washington in 1972. The Extension Agent in the King County office of the Washington State Extension Service began to train and utilize the expertise of volunteers in order to more effectively reach the gardening public with research-based educational information. It was a great concept that has now spread across the United States, Canada and to other countries.

The Master Gardener program in Ohio has existed since the late 1970s and has grown steadily. Although its initial start and growth was in the more urban counties of our state, there are now nearly 3000 active Master Gardeners in more than 60 Ohio counties, urban, suburban and rural.

### How do I know if I would make a good Master Gardener Volunteer?

You could qualify to be a Greene County Ohio Master Gardener if:

- You want to learn more about plants and gardening.
- You are eager to participate in a practical and intensive training program.
- You enjoy sharing your knowledge with others.
- You have the time to attend training and serve your community as a volunteer educator.

### How do I become a Master Gardener Volunteer?

Initial training is conducted for 13 weeks usually from early February through early April. Once training is completed you must volunteer 50 hours of service through the OSU Extension Office. To recertify each year you must volunteer 25 hours, again through the OSU Extension Office and complete 10 hours of continuing education.

### Is there a fee for Master Gardener Volunteer training?

Yes, there is a fee for Greene County Master Gardener Volunteer Training which varies annually. This covers the cost of training materials and other expenses incurred to conduct training and to help support educational activities.

### How can I find out more about becoming a Greene County Master Gardener Volunteer?

Contact: 937-372-9971 or email [thieke.2@osu.edu](mailto:thieke.2@osu.edu)

