



Colorado State University Extension
4040 Campus Delivery
Ft. Collins, CO 80523-4040
www.ext.colostate.edu

For Immediate Release

Contact: Linda Langelo
Golden Plains Extension
Horticulture Program Associate
Phone: (970) 854-3616
Linda.Langelo@colostate.edu

Become A Master Gardener
By Linda Langelo Golden Plains Area Extension

The Colorado Master GardenerSM program in the Golden Plains Area is accepting applications this fall with a November 1, 2017 deadline. In 2018, the program will run over a two-year period. The training will be provided in the first year with payment up-front and half of the required volunteer hours due by October 31, 2018. In the second year, the rest of the volunteer hours are due with a \$25 fee for reenrollment.

Classes are taught in different counties over an 11-week period within the Golden Plains Area by distance education. Three online classes will reduce travel to the distance education classes. The first online class, **An Introduction to Colorado Master Gardener Program** must be finished by January 15, 2018. Class schedule for distance education starts January 25 through to April 5, 2018. Distance Education Classes are held on Thursdays starting at 9 am to noon for the morning and from 1 pm – 4 pm for the afternoon. The last class in April is a local class that covers orientation including how to record volunteer hours, the expected code of conduct and CMG requirements. If there are less than four students enrolled per county, then there will be travel involved.

Those accepted into the program will receive eleven weeks of training on plant care and have the opportunity to work with other gardeners from the Golden Plains Area who volunteer in the community. The Colorado Master Gardener Program is ideal for gardeners who wish to increase their knowledge of horticulture and help others learn the joy of successful gardening.

In addition to receiving training from Colorado State University professors, specialists and horticulture agents, master gardeners learn on the job as they perform 25 hours of volunteer work during the first growing season and 25 hours in the second season and then 24 every year after to keep the master gardener status. Volunteers help Extension in the community by the following types of projects:

- answering questions on garden care
- providing education through teaching classes
- writing news articles
- working with special audiences
- maintaining demonstration sites
- helping with the community garden
- helping with gardening projects for 4-H, FFA and other organizations

In the Golden Plains Area our Master Gardeners have helped do all of the above listed projects as well as maintain the Plant Select®, xeric and native plant demonstration gardens, provided horticulture projects for those who are elderly and disabled, created flower container gardens, raised funds, and other various projects. Statewide, the value placed on the time donated by the 1,600 plus master gardeners in 36 county-based programs generate more than \$1.4 million.

With the Colorado Master Gardener Program there are two educational options listed as follows:

- **Colorado Master Gardener Certificate** – those who volunteer will be permitted to do a minimum of 25 hours the first year after all the class work and 25 hours in the second year and pay \$25 for a reenrollment fee.
- **Colorado Garden Certificate Student** – involves no volunteer time. Please read below.

The Colorado Master Gardener Program also can be a stepping stone toward a career in horticulture. You can enroll in this program without having to pay back any volunteer time. You would earn a title of **Colorado Garden Certificate Student**. This program is recognized by the green industry as a great vocational education course. The Colorado Master Gardener program is open to all including persons working within the green industry as well outside of the professional field. Many people considering a career in the green industry start with this master gardener training as an all-around introduction to advanced plant care.

If gaining knowledge and helping others through horticulture is of interest to you, the Colorado Master Gardener Program is an ideal volunteer choice. Please contact Linda Langelo at Colorado State University Extension Office in Julesburg at **970-474-3479** between **8am** and **4:30pm** for further details such as the costs, I look forward to hearing from you.

Colorado State University Extension in the Golden Plains Area provides unbiased, research-based information about 4-H youth development, family and consumer issues, gardening, horticulture and natural resources. As part of a nationwide system, Extension brings the research and resources of the university to the community. The Sedgwick County Extension is located at 315 Cedar Street, Julesburg, CO. 80737.

For more information visit www.ext.colostate.edu.

###

Colorado State University Extension is your local university community connection for research-based information about natural resource management; living well through raising kids, eating right and spending smart; gardening and commercial horticulture; the latest agricultural production technologies and community development. Extension 4-H and youth development programs reach more than 90,000 young people annually, over half in urban communities.