



Charles Pinkston
Regional Extension Agent
News Release

Master Gardener Class Scheduled

Do you love to garden? Want to learn more? Well, the St. Clair County Extension office is the place to be! A Master Gardener training course has been scheduled this fall to help educate you on the basics of gardening in Alabama. The classes will begin on September 2nd and will meet each Tuesday until November 25th. There will be no meeting the week of Thanksgiving. Classes will meet in the St. Clair County Extension Office Auditorium, located on the lower level of the St. Clair County Courthouse in Pell City. Whether you are already a so-called expert or not, don't pass up this opportunity to become a Master Gardener! You'll have fun and be prepared with all sorts of knowledge for next year's growing season.

The Alabama Master Gardener Volunteer Program is an educational program offered by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Through this program, individuals are trained and certified in horticulture and related areas. The Master Gardener Program trains volunteers, who work through Extension, to bring the latest horticultural information and practices from the world of research to landscapes and gardens in their communities.

This training program provides more than 40 hours of classroom and hands-on instruction in horticulture and related areas. Classes taught will include soils and plant nutrition; composting, plant physiology; plant pathology; landscape design and plant selection; weed identification and control; entomology; pesticide education, fruit culture; plant propagation; home lawn care; vegetable gardening; interior plants, care and maintenance of landscape plants; and bedding plants. Courses will be taught by Regional Extension Agent—Charles Pinkston, specialists from Auburn University, and local resource people.

There is a class limit of 25. (We must have 25 to be able to offer the class) Interested individuals should complete a registration form available at the Extension office or online at www.aces.edu/StClair. A committee of Master Gardeners will screen interested applicants. There is a registration fee of \$100 to cover cost of materials and refreshments, which **will not** be collected until potential applicants are chosen. Registration deadline is Tuesday, August 5th. For more information, please contact Charles Pinkston, Regional Extension Agent at the St. Clair County Extension office at (205) 338-9416 or email pinkscb@auburn.edu. Visit www.aces.edu/mg to learn more about the Alabama Master Gardener Program.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the primary outreach organization for the land-grant mission of Alabama A&M University and Auburn University, delivers research based educational programs that enable people to improve their quality of life and economic well-being.