Master Gardeners is Growing Fast!

2015
Alabama Master Gardener
training classes statistics:

344
New Participants

34
Active Master Gardener Associations

119,769
Volunteer Hours

$2,155,824
The value of the total time volunteered in 2015

How Does Master Gardeners Work?
The Alabama Master Gardener Program is an outreach mission to the citizens of Alabama. This program represents an effective partnership between the land grant universities of this state and motivated volunteers. Master Gardener volunteers offer their community Reliable, Relevant, and Reachable gardening information and education opportunities.

Reliable: Our gardening advice and programs are science-based.
Relevant: Our information is timely.
Reachable: Call us for answers.

The Master Gardener Helpline:
877-252-4769
What is Master Gardener?
The Alabama Master Gardener Volunteer Program is an educational volunteer-recruitment program offered through the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Volunteers are trained to work with Extension to bring the latest horticultural information from the land grant universities to their communities.

How did Master Gardener begin?
The concept of Master Gardener volunteer training began in the state of Washington in 1973. In Alabama, the program began in 1981 with Extension Agent Gary Murry and an energetic Cornell Extension Master Gardener, Mary Lou McNabb, who had moved to Huntsville.

What is Master Gardener training?
The Alabama Master Gardener training program provides 50 hours of classroom and hands-on instruction in horticulture and related areas.

Classes in the training program include the following:
- home lawns
- plant selection
- Alabama smart yards
- annuals and perennials
- plant propagation
- vegetable gardening
- soil science
- weed control
- pest management
- backyard fruits

Courses are taught by Extension specialists and agents, local specialists, and certified Master Gardeners.

What does Master Gardener require?
Participants are obligated to complete 50 hours of volunteer service time. These projects range from answering Helpline calls and working with Extension agents in workshops to assisting with ongoing community projects.

When and where is Master Gardener offered?
The Master Gardener training program is a 10- to 13-week course. Participants are welcome to join classes in any of the hosting counties regardless of residence. A registration fee is required upon acceptance to the program.