



WHO...

are Extension Master Gardeners?

Virginia Master Gardeners are volunteer educators who work within their communities to encourage and promote environmentally sound horticulture practices through sustainable landscape management education and training. As an educational program of Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Master Gardeners bring the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, to the people of the commonwealth.

The VCE Master Gardener program is made up of more than 5,500 active and certified Master Gardener volunteers throughout Virginia who contribute over 350,000 hours of volunteer service each year. Almost 1,000 new volunteers are trained annually.

Extension Master Gardeners work specifically toward the following goals:

- Enhancing the environment through sustainable landscape practices
- Using horticulture and landscaping to positively impact youth
- Using horticulture and landscaping to promote community development and economic growth
- Producing food in public and private gardens to improve human nutrition and food security
- Using horticulture to improve the overall quality of life for Virginia's citizens



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please visit us online:

www.jccwmg.org

Or contact:

Virginia Cooperative Extension, James City County/Williamsburg Office

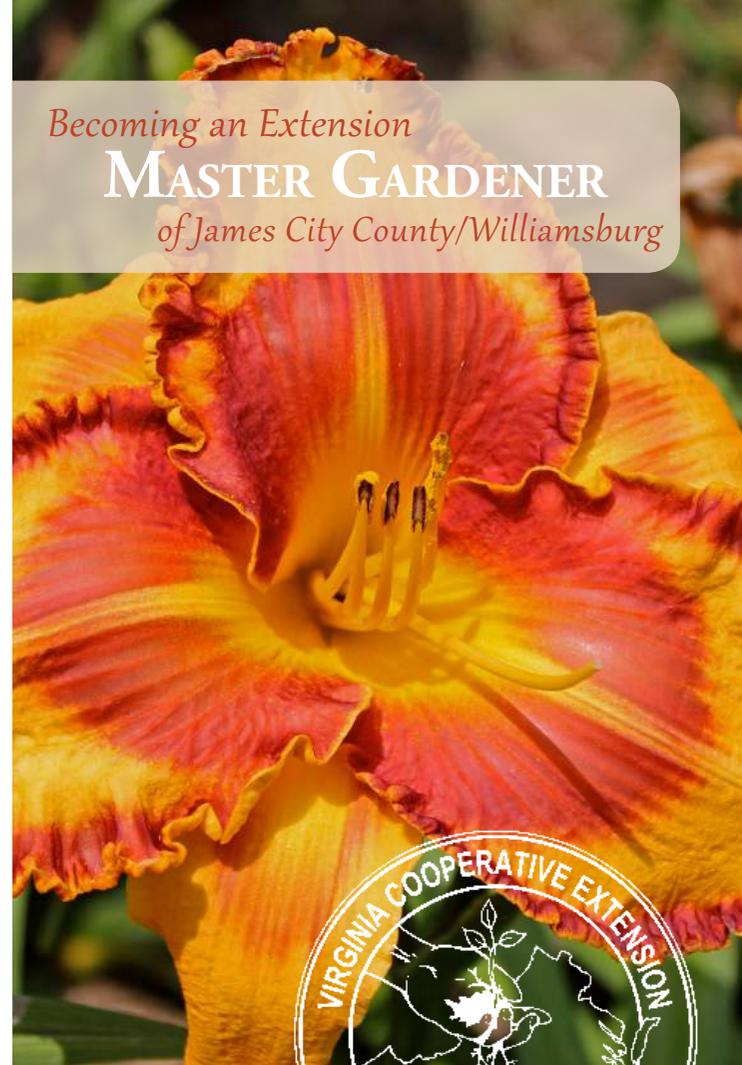
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Becoming an Extension MASTER GARDENER of James City County/Williamsburg



*Sharing Knowledge.
Empowering Communities.*



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If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify John Freeborn, at (540) 231-2714 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. TDD number is (800) 828-1120.





How...

do I become an Extension Master Gardener?

The 13 week training program provides research-based information on a variety of horticultural and environmental topics. Training sessions are offered annually from January to April. Preregistration is required. Contact the James City County/Williamsburg VCE office for more information (<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/james-city/>).

WHEN...

do I become an Extension Master Gardener?

By completing the classroom instruction, you become a Master Gardener Intern. The title of VCE Master Gardener is granted after you complete a minimum of 70 hours of volunteer service conducting horticultural education programs.

To complete annual recertification you must:

- Contribute at least 20 hours of volunteer service each year
- Participate in at least 8 hours of continuing education



WHY...

become an Extension Master Gardener?

By sharing sound horticultural knowledge and teaching environmentally responsible landscape practices, Extension Master Gardeners improve communities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

“With the Master Gardener program there’s always more to learn & there’s always more being developed to learn.” - Barbara

Sharing Knowledge.



Empowering Communities.

“The Master Gardener program is great because it combines two things that you love - your community & gardening.” - Jim

Extension Master Gardener training involves a variety of topics:

- Botany
- Soils & fertilizer
- Entomology (insects)
- Propagation
- Vegetables
- Fruits
- Turf
- Woody plants
- Herbaceous plants
- Water quality
- Pruning
- Plant pathology (diseases)
- Plant damage (diagnosis)
- Pesticides
- Landscape design
- Indoor foliage



WHAT...

do Extension Master Gardeners do?

- Provide guidance on sustainable landscapes
- Conduct plant clinics
- Oversee teaching and demonstration gardens
- Staff the VCE Master Gardener Help Desk
- Run annual spring educational seminars

Locally, Extension Master Gardeners make a difference by participating in specific projects including:

- **Turf Love**, helping residents adopt lawn care practices that provide them with healthier turf and protect the water shed from excess fertilizers.
- **Incredible Edibles**, is designed to promote the use of locally-grown produce with a special emphasis on the underserved within the communities.
- **Therapeutic Gardening**, offers a variety of horticultural activities, such as gardening in containers, using the senses to learn about herbs, and creating simple horticulture-related crafts throughout the community that provide assisted living, nursing care and adult day care.
- **Seeds of Learning**, This program introduces area 1st graders to gardening using the Standards of Learning Science curriculum as a guide.