

What should a Master Gardener Avoid?

Master Gardeners do not deal with commercial problems or questions. These questions are passed on to appropriate Extension personnel.

Second, all recommendations made by a Master Gardener must be consistent with University recommendations. Everyone, of course, has the right to their personal ideas and beliefs. It is vitally important that Master Gardeners avoid interjecting these personal ideas into their official recommendations.

Lastly, Master Gardeners may use their title only when performing unpaid volunteer work. They may not advertise as Master Gardeners within their jobs or place of business. Any use of the Master Gardener title within commercial activities, in association with commercial products or implying UT/TSU Extension endorsement of any product, place of business or commercial service is improper.

2017 Pollinator Project Raised Garden Bed # 5



How do I find out more about the Master Gardener program in Rhea County?

Contact:

Thomas Greenlee

(423) 775-7807

jgreenl4@utk.edu

125 Court Street, Unit 3

Dayton, TN 37321

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



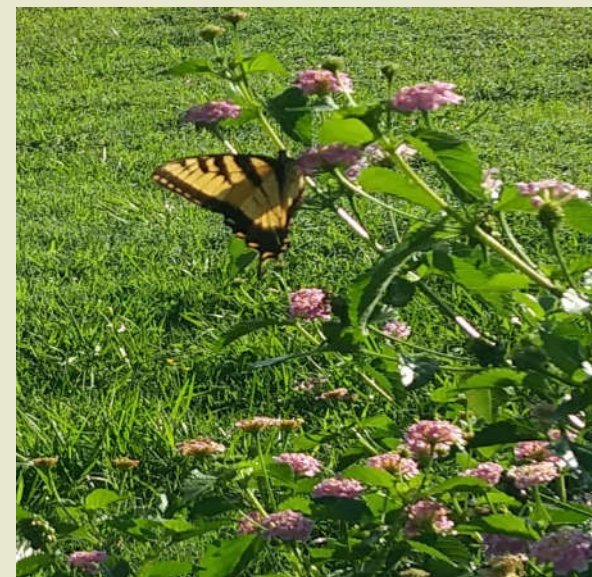
**Come join the Master Gardener Program
and gain valuable insight into the
wonderful world of gardening, make new
friendships and give back to your community.**

Programs in agriculture and natural resources,
4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences,
and resource development.

University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture,
U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.



Rhea County Master Gardener Program “Helping Tennessee Grow Better Communities”



**A program of UT/TSU Extension
125 Court Street, Unit 3
Dayton, TN 37321
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www.rheacomg.com**



Master Gardener Pavilion and raised bed project built by Master Gardener volunteers

What is the Master Gardener Program?

The Rhea County Master Gardener is a program of UT/TSU Extension. It is designed to train volunteers in all aspects of gardening. These volunteers then return service equal to their hours of training to UT/TSU Extension or their community.

The Master Gardener program exists in all states and participants are trained and supervised by the Extension system. The program was created to assist Extension in dealing with the enormous demand from home gardeners for horticultural information. It has become a vital part of Extension's ability to provide consumers with up-to-date, reliable knowledge. Master Gardening has also become a fun and useful volunteer activity which gives its participants a sense of community spirit and accomplishments, as well as training in many aspects of horticulture.

Master Gardener trainees are trained in groups of 10 or more. They receive **40 hours** of training; at least 25 of which are in core curriculum subjects. Training sessions are in three hour modules and are conducted by county or specialist staff with UT/TSU Extension, Master Gardeners and other qualified resource personnel.

What topics are covered during the Master Gardener course?

Areas of training may include many subjects directly or indirectly related to horticulture. These include basic garden botany and identification, propagation, care and culture of vegetables, small fruit, tree fruit, herbaceous and woody ornamentals, turf and houseplants. Identification and control of insects, disease and weeds is heavily emphasized and may comprise several study units. Specialized instruction concerning soils, household pests, landscaping, growing and using herbs, organic gardening, aquaponics and the use of high tunnels are also frequently included.



2014 Rhea County Fair Booth and Presentation on the Magic of Beans



Master Gardener Association Meeting and 2015 Rhea County Fair Planning

What is expected of a Master Gardener participant?

Master Gardener trainees are ***expected to attend or make up all training sessions***. Missing too many sessions may cause a trainee to be dropped from the program.

Volunteer service is the second component in the process of becoming a Master Gardener. Trainees are expected to complete volunteer service equal to their hours of training within one year or less of the completion of their training. This service may be directly to Extension or to any of many different community projects and organizations approved by the local Master Gardener Advisory Board. The variety of projects available is limited only by the imagination and initiative.

To ***maintain active status*** as a Master Gardener, participants are required to perform 25 hours of volunteer service and have 8 hours of continuing education (CEU's) each year.