



The UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County are inviting people to join our team.

UC Master Gardeners are trained by experts in their field. You don't need to be an expert in gardening or have a nice garden. We will teach you where to find information. If we don't know an answer, then we say, "I don't know but I will look it up and get back to you."

Trainings are in Yuba City starting January 24 to May 8 but only once a week.

You can volunteer for any or all our activities!

Some of the activities that we do in Colusa County include:

Booths at events

- Colusa Farm Show
- Children Services Family Fair
- Colusa County Fair
- Colusa County Employee Benefits and Safety Fair
- Plant Clinic

Workshops

- Landscape Tree
- Pumpkin Centerpieces
- Wreath making

Donna Critchfield demonstration garden in Williams

- Grow vegetables to distribute to the food distribution.
- Workshops & Open Gardens

We also have:

- Monthly Podcast
- Monthly Newsletter
- Weekly articles in the Pioneer Review
- Website



If you or someone you know are interested in becoming a Master Gardener, let us know. The application and information are available on our website cecolusa.ucanr.edu or in our office at 100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. E, Colusa.

The deadline to apply and orientation is November 16 at 11 am at our office.



UC MASTER GARDENER OF COLUSA COUNTY APPLICATION INFORMATION LETTER

Thank you for your interest in the UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County. If you love gardening, learning about gardening and sharing your knowledge with others, the UC Master Gardener program offers you the opportunity to learn and use your knowledge of gardening to serve the community.

In this packet you will find an application and some additional information about becoming a certified UC Master Gardener. The UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County is open only to Colusa County residents.

The UC Master Gardener of Colusa County Program is a partnership of the University of California Cooperative Extension. UC Master Gardeners are non-paid agents of UC Cooperative Extension that are part of an organized volunteer program.

The UC Master Gardener Program is a volunteer organization that provides public education in home gardening and basic horticulture. Each trainee must:

- Have a commitment to community service in Colusa County.
- Be willing to volunteer as an agent of the University of California Cooperative Extension. All information provided to the public must be University of California or other university research.
- Be fingerprinted and pass a Department of Justice background investigation before the end of training.
- Sign a proof of California Driver's License and auto insurance, code of conduct, photo release, self-disclosure form and waiver of liability.
- Attend all training classes (1 absence is allowed with prior notification).
- Complete an open book exam with a score of 70% or better.
- Complete training at the office help desk and farmers' markets.
- Complete 50 hours of volunteer service and 12 hours of continuing education in the first year after training.

While the intent of the UC Master Gardener program is to provide service at little or no cost to the public, there is a cost for the training of new UC Master Gardeners.

- The tuition fee for the training class is approximately **\$175**. Fee will be collected after your acceptance. Limited scholarship assistance is available.
- The fee includes all lectures, handouts, CA Master Gardener Handbook, and name badge.

If you want to apply for the 2024 UC Master Gardener Training class, anticipated to start January 24 and end May 8, please complete the attached application. **Please submit this completed application at the mandatory "Meet the Master Gardener" orientation, November 16, 2023 at 11 am.**

UCCE office, 100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. E, Colusa, Ca 95932

Trainings will be every Thursday starting January 24 through May 8. 12:45 to 4:45 (only once a week).

Training will take place in Yuba City, at the UC Cooperative Extension office, 142 Garden Hwy, YC.

What is the UC Master Gardener Program?

UC Master Gardeners are volunteers trained and certified by the University of California Cooperative Extension in the areas of gardening and horticulture. Since 1980 they have been extending information and providing technical assistance to gardeners in California.

What training is given to UC Master Gardeners?

UC Master Gardener trainees attend a training program comprising of nearly 60 hours of instruction in plant science and horticulture covering such topics as soils, fertilizers, irrigation, weeds, diseases, insects and other pests, fruit and landscape trees, vegetables and more. Each trainee receives The California Master Gardener Handbook.

Classes are taught by experts in their fields. They include Cooperative Extension Advisors, specialists from the University of California, and other knowledgeable resource people.

Who becomes a UC Master Gardener?

UC Master Gardeners are people of all ages and from all walks of life. They include business people, professionals, educators, retirees, homemakers, and students – all with some experience and knowledge of plants and gardening. UC Master Gardeners must be enthusiastic, willing to learn and help others, and must be able to communicate with diverse groups of people.

What is the UC Master Gardener's commitment to the program?

After completing the training and passing a written exam, the new UC Master Gardener Interns are required to complete a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer service and 12 hours of continuing education within the next 12 months. UC Master Gardeners are selected on the basis of their ability to fulfill this commitment. In order to retain the title UC Master Gardener in ensuing years, UC Master Gardeners must perform 25 hours of volunteer service and complete 12 hours of continuing education per year. Limited scholarship assistance is available.

What kind of volunteer work does a UC Master Gardener do?

UC Master Gardeners staff an information desk in the Colusa County Extension office where they answer questions, diagnose plant problems, and give horticultural assistance to the public. Information is also dispersed at farmer's markets, fairs and through talks and demonstrations. All information provided to the public must be based on University of California or other university research.

What is Cooperative Extension?

The University of California Cooperative Extension is part of a nationwide program established by an Act of Congress in 1914, and is part of the Land Grant University in every state. Three levels of government participate in funding Cooperative Extension programs: federal, state and county. The University of California Cooperative Extension works in cooperation with federal and county governments to provide local educational programs throughout California.

The mission of the University of California Cooperative Extension is to develop, extend, and bring about the use of research-based knowledge to improve specific practices and technologies. In addition, Cooperative Extension makes practical information generally available. Cooperative Extension has research support and organizational capacity in agriculture and natural resources, in family and consumer science, in community resource development and in youth development.

University of California county staff is located in county Cooperative Extension offices in nearly every county in California. County staff extends knowledge, conduct field research, and provide leadership in selected Cooperative Extension program areas. Highly trained subject matter specialists, housed on University campuses and in regional offices, conduct applied research, supply information for dissemination by county staff, and provide leadership for state-wide programs.



UC Master Gardener Volunteer Application Form

[UC Master Gardener Program Administrative Handbook, Appendix 2.](#)

The UC Master Gardener Program mission is “to extend research-based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to the residents of California and be guided by our core values and strategic initiatives.” Join us!

County

Date of Application

Preferred First Name

Preferred Middle Name

Preferred Last Name

Legal First Name

Legal Middle Name

Legal Last Name

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone (with area code)

Cell Phone (with area code)

Email Address (required)

Applicants selected for UC Master Gardener Program training must complete a criminal background check (required of all UC agents and volunteers) through the California Department of Justice (DOJ). UC must notify the DOJ if prospective agents are recent residents of California. This information is not considered as part of your application package. How long have you been a resident of California? _____

County Use Only

Driver's License #	Legal Name Provided	Proof of Auto Liability Insurance	Background Check Completed	Orientation	Code of Conduct/Rights & Responsibilities	Date Received	Cash or Check # _____
Expiration Date							Fees Paid \$ _____



6. UC Master Gardener Program volunteers are teachers and communicators. Please list your experience with any of these teaching/communication methods: Public speaking, demonstrations, one-on-one consultations, and writing for print or social media. Please be sure to include both online and in-person communication experience.

7. Please share any non-gardening skills you would bring to the program. Skills could include speaking and writing in languages other than English, experience with community organizing, graphic design or photography expertise, and so on.

8. Like many organizations, the UC Master Gardener Program relies on technology to deliver its mission. Please describe your proficiency with technologies such as e-mail, video platforms (like Zoom), blogs, and so on.

9. UC Master Gardener Program trainees are required to complete a training course. Training dates, times, length, and format (e.g. online, in-person, hybrid) differ by county. Will you commit to attend all sessions? Can you access the internet to complete your training or volunteer service? Following the training, volunteers complete volunteer hours and continuing education hours annually (50 volunteer hours in the first year; 25 volunteer hours and 12 continuing education hours thereafter). Given your understanding of the program, how do you plan to meet these requirements?

10. How did you learn about the UC Master Gardener Program?



Demographic information:

The UC Master Gardener Program is open to all. We collect the following demographic information to know if we are reaching all community members. This portion of the application is voluntary and will be used for reporting purposes. The categories listed are those required by UC and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Gender (check one):

- Woman Man Non-binary Gender not listed Decline to state

Ethnicity (check one):

- Hispanic or Latino/a, : A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish-speaking culture or origin, regardless of race and/or a person of Latin American culture or origin
- Not Hispanic or Latino/a

Race (check all that apply):

- American Indian or Alaskan Native: A person with origins among any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains a tribal affiliation or community attachment.
- Asian: A person with origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent—including, for example, the peoples of Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- Black or African American: A person with origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: A person with origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
- White: A person with origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.
- Decline to state.



I wish to be considered for acceptance into the UC Master Gardener training program offered by UC Cooperative Extension. I understand that if I am accepted, I will become a certified UC Master Gardener when I complete _____ weeks of classes and achieve a score of 70% on a written examination. Upon acceptance into the training program, I agree to sign the [University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources \(UC ANR\) Adult Code of Conduct](#), adhere to the [UC Master Gardener Program Policy Handbook](#), uphold the [University of California’s Non-discrimination commitment](#), and adhere to the [highest ethical standards](#).

In exchange for the training made possible by the UC Master Gardener Program, I will: attend all required training classes, volunteer at least 50 hours with the UC Master Gardener Program within one calendar year of my graduation (expected _____), regularly submit volunteer hours, and follow all University policies and procedures.

UC Regents retains a non-exclusive license to use images, video, and educational content created by UC Master Gardener volunteers while acting as agents of UC.

I understand that I will be required to submit to a criminal background and fingerprint screening (California Department of Justice Live Scan) prior to the beginning of the training program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this application to the address listed below. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on _____. Late applications will not be accepted.

UC Master Gardener Program of _____ County

Address: _____

City, CA Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Website: _____

In compliance with the California Information Practices Act of 1977, the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) requests personal information for UC Master Gardener Program use only. Applicants may inquire how their data is used by contacting the local office and/or the UC Master Gardener Program statewide office (2801 2nd Street, Davis, CA 95618-7779).

The authority provided for the requested demographic information comes under the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 and Article IX, Section 9 of the State of California Constitution. Demographic information collected (including race, ethnicity, and gender) complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Extension Service’s reporting requirements. We share this information with the Federal government for Affirmative Action and the Federal Affirmative Action Reports. *Submission of demographic data is voluntary.* The University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources (UCANR) is an equal opportunity provider. Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/215244.pdf>. Inquiries regarding ANR’s nondiscrimination policies may be directed to UCANR, Affirmative Action Compliance Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1343.



Checklist for getting started. UC Master Gardener of Colusa County, 2024

- **Please submit the completed application at or before the mandatory “Meet the Master Gardener” orientation, November 16 at 11 am.**
- Attend the mandatory “Meet the Master Gardeners” orientation on November 16, 2023, at 11 am in the UC Cooperative Extension office in Colusa. At the orientation you will learn about the program, and we will chat with you about your experiences. Before the end of the day, we will let you know about acceptance into the program.
- Pay **\$175** fee to UC Cooperative Extension office in Colusa by December 1, 2019. Make checks to “UC Regents”.
- Pick up books and assorted information. You will be called or emailed when it is available.
- Understand that the trainings are at the UC Sutter/Yuba County office in Yuba City, but you will be volunteering in Colusa County.

Thanks,

Gerry Hernandez
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