



K-State Extension – Reno County

Master Gardener Program Application 2026

Application Due Friday, September 4, 2026

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____
Address _____ Evening Phone _____
City, ST, Zip _____ Cell Phone _____
Email _____
Emergency Contact: _____ Emergency Telephone: _____

PURPOSE

The Reno County Extension Master Gardener Program is a volunteer program, not just a series of classes. A minimum of 40 hours of specialized training in all areas of home horticulture is given to volunteers so that they may provide the public with sound, research-based horticultural information.

PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

- Be a Reno County resident, or agree to repay your commitment of volunteer service in Reno County
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent, possess a broad interest in horticulture, and be interested in teaching and working with others.
- Support the objectives of the K-State Extension - Reno County horticulture department and the Extension Master Gardener program.
- Read and comprehend an extensive notebook of support materials to be used for future reference.
- Attend daytime basic training sessions, completing make up lessons in cases of absences.
- Complete the basic *Master Gardener Training Course*
- Complete 40 hours of volunteer work as approved by the horticulture agent by the 15th of October following the basic course completion
- Distinction as an active Extension Master Gardener in good standing requires annual completion of 6 hours of continuing training and a minimum of 12 volunteer hours every year following the initial training year.
- Submit payment of \$135 to cover training supplies and reference book with application.

Time available for volunteer service:

☐ Weekdays ☐ Evenings ☐ Saturdays ☐ Sundays

Will your employment or other commitments allow you to be available to participate in all basic training sessions, held all day on Thursdays from September 17 through December 17, excluding Thanksgiving?

☐ Yes
☐ No, please explain

How did you hear about the Master Gardener Program?

Explain briefly why you wish to become a Master Gardener.

What are your expectations for the Master Gardener Program?

Gardening Experience

Please list any training, courses, or class experience you have had on gardening and/or environmental issues. (For information only. Previous gardening experience is not a requirement of the Master Gardener Program)

Indicate any experience, training, or special interest(s) you have in any of the following:

- ☐ Annual Flowers
- ☐ Landscaping
- ☐ Vegetables
- ☐ Fruit
- ☐ Perennial Flowers
- ☐ Composting
- ☐ Lawn Care
- ☐ House Plants
- ☐ Native Plants/Wildflowers
- ☐ Trees
- ☐ Shrubs
- ☐ Ornamental Grasses
- ☐ Organic Gardening
- ☐ Greenhouses
- ☐ Container Gardening
- ☐ Gardening with kids
- ☐ Horticulture Therapy
- ☐ Herbs
- ☐ Water Gardens
- ☐ Gardening under lights
- ☐ Other (please explain): _____
- ☐ Specialty Plants (please explain) _____

List environmental or garden group affiliation(s):

Share any other volunteer or work activities:

Your role as an Extension Master Gardener

The following volunteer activities are venues of Extension Master Gardener service to the community. Please rate the following volunteer activities according to your interest:

	Least Interest	1	2	3	4	5	Most Interest
Teach/present to small groups (15 or fewer people)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Teach/present to large groups (more than 15 people)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Teach/work with children	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Teach/work with teens			☐	☐	☐	☐	
Teach/work with adults			☐	☐	☐	☐	
Teach/work with senior citizens			☐	☐	☐	☐	
Teach/work with persons with mental or physical disabilities			☐	☐	☐	☐	
Write (news articles, fact sheets, newsletters, etc.)			☐	☐	☐	☐	
Graphic Design-Help with brochure development for programs or events			☐	☐	☐	☐	
Staff information booths			☐	☐	☐	☐	
Prepare exhibits and displays			☐	☐	☐	☐	
Maintain demonstration gardens			☐	☐	☐	☐	

EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER AGREEMENT

I wish to become a K-State Extension **Reno County Master Gardener trainee** and would be available for the training sessions for the Class of 2026, which begins **September 17 and meets every Thursday through December 17 from 8:00am to 4:30pm (this includes travel time to and from class).**

I understand that if I am accepted into the Extension Master Gardener training program, I am entering into a contract to return at least 40 hours of volunteer service to the horticulture programs of K-State Extension-Reno County. Of these 40 hours, 10 hours should be at one of the demonstration gardens and 6 hours spent helping with the annual garden tour. Extension Master Gardeners are expected to provide recommendations based on research-based information, and to provide educational program assistance in support of the general County Extension education program. I further understand that continuation as an active Master Gardener in good standing requires completion of both 6 hours of Master Gardener Continuing Education and a minimum of 12 volunteer hours annually on approved projects as well as attending a minimum of 3 monthly meetings per year.

I understand that volunteers may not participate in the Reno County Extension Master Gardener Program for commercial gain or endorsements. The title Master Gardener is a trademarked name and is not meant to be used in advertising for commercial businesses. The title Master Gardener should be used only by individuals trained in a Cooperative Extension Service program. The title is valid only when used by an active Master Gardener who is participating in a program approved by an Extension agent. When an individual ceases to be active in the Master Gardener program, their designation as a Master Gardener ceases. Master Gardeners should not display credentials or give the appearance of being a Master Gardener at a place of business unless that place has been designated the site of a Master Gardener activity by the local Extension unit. The title Master Gardener should not be used in a manner which implies Cooperative Extension Service endorsement of any product or place of business. The title Master Gardener should be used only when doing unpaid volunteer work for Extension.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for your interest in the Reno County Extension Master Gardener Program and for taking the time to fill out this application. Please return the completed form with payment of \$135 to the **Reno County Extension Office, 2 W. 10th, South Hutchinson, KS 67505** by **Friday, September 4.**

Upon receipt of your application, we will send you a confirmation letter that will include the time and location of the orientation meeting. For questions, please call the Extension Office at 620-662-2371 or email: ppaulsen@ksu.edu

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

K-State Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

K-State Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact **Pam Paulsen** two weeks prior to the start of the event at **620-662-2371** or ppaulsen@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so.