



Live, Learn and Thrive.

Extension Master Gardener Program



Master Gardener Plant Identification Class

Master Gardener Curriculum

Core Curriculum

- Fundamentals of plant science
- Fundamentals of soil science
 - Weather and climate
 - Plant Pathology
- Entomology and Integrated Pest Management
 - ☒ Weed Science
 - ☒ Pesticide Safety

Additional Classes (vary by county)

- Plant identification and selection
 - Principles of xeriscaping
- Landscape design and maintenance
 - Native plants
- Turfgrass selection and maintenance
 - Urban tree care
- Vegetable production
 - Fruit and nut production
 - ☒ Wildlife management
 - ☒ Composting
- Greenhouse / hoop-house production

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About the Program

Who: Program participants include gardeners from all walks of life. Diversity of ethnicity, education and experience makes for a rich and rewarding learning experience.

How: Program participants are trained by NMSU Extension specialists, county agents, and local experts how to respond to community resident's questions, and how to share what they've learned with others.

What: Master Gardeners volunteer their time to assist their local Cooperative Extension Agent in sharing appropriate research-based gardening information and techniques with others in their community. The outcomes of this program benefit everyone involved and the landscapes they inhabit.



2015 Sandoval County Interns

County Master Gardener Programs and Contacts

Master gardener classes are taught annually in some counties and every two years in other counties. Most counties offer classes in the spring, but a few offer classes in the fall. In order to find out more about the Master Gardener Program in your county, contact your local county extension office.

Bernalillo County (bernalillo@nmsu.edu)

Chaves County (chaves@nmsu.edu)

Colfax County (colfax@nmsu.edu)

Dona Ana County (donaana@nmsu.edu)

Eddy County (eddy@nmsu.edu)

Lea County (lea@nmsu.edu)

Los Alamos County (losalamos@nmsu.edu)

Otero County (otero@nmsu.edu)

San Juan County (sanjuan@nmsu.edu)

Sandoval County (sandoval@nmsu.edu)

Santa Fe County (santafe@nmsu.edu)

Taos County (taos@nmsu.edu)

Valencia County (valencia@nmsu.edu)



Master gardeners learn how to answer plant questions



Program Accomplishments and Impacts

- The New Mexico Master Gardener Programs train over 300 new Master Gardeners yearly and have over 1,000 active master gardeners statewide.
- New Mexico Master Gardeners return over 50,000 hours of volunteer service valued at \$1,089,500 to the counties—volunteer service is equivalent to hiring 25 staff members.
- Teachers involved in master gardener developed school gardens in Dona Ana county report that students develop a greater interest in science, develop healthier eating habits and improve their overall attitude and behavior.
- Sandoval county master gardeners grow and donate over 2,000 lbs of vegetables to local community food banks.
- Master gardener established xeric native plant gardens in many counties teach visitors the importance of water conservation.

New Mexico State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educator. NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

Volunteer Activities

Volunteer activities vary by county but may include the following:

- Answering calls on the gardening hotline
- School and youth education programs
- Adult education programs
- Development and maintenance of community gardens
- Growing and donating produce to community food banks
- Plant clinics - answering questions at community events and farmer's markets
- Home visits
- Assisting with CES workshops and conferences
- Assisting NMSU faculty with extension demonstration and research projects



Master gardeners answer questions at community earth day event