



Master Gardener Program

What is a Master Gardener? Master Gardeners (MGs) are trained volunteers who assist their local Cooperative Extension Service in providing accurate, research-based yard and gardening information to county residents. Doña Ana County has over 90 active certified MG's and interns volunteering.

How can I become a Master Gardener? The Doña Ana Cooperative Extension Service provides an annual training which is a series of 15 all-day classes, taught once a week for 15 weeks. To become certified as a Doña Ana County MG, you must successfully complete this series of classes, and complete a 50 hour internship (25 hours on MG hotline and 25 hours of community-related volunteer hours). MG's must volunteer at least 50 hours each year to retain their certification.

The MG classes usually begin in late August, and run through mid-December. Course instructors include NMSU Cooperative Extension Specialists, certified MG's and other regional horticultural experts. The application form can be found at <http://aces.nmsu.edu/county/donaana/mastergardener/apply.html> or may be picked up at the **Doña Ana Cooperative Extension Service at 1170 N. Solano, Suite M, Las Cruces NM 88001**. You may return the application form to the same address.

Master Gardener course topics include basic plant and soil science, entomology (insects), gardening, plant pathology, native plants, irrigation, composting, and many others.

Master Gardener Hotline: Master Gardeners are available to answer gardening and yard/landscape questions every Tuesday and Friday from 9am to 12 noon. The hotline number is 575-525-6649. Master Gardeners, with the assistance of the county Extension Agronomy /Horticulture Agent, and NMSU Extension Specialists, will help identify garden and landscaping concerns, and provide information to solve these problems. Insect specimens and diseased plant samples may be brought to the Doña Ana Cooperative Extension Service, in a sealed bag or jar, for identification. The Master Gardener Hotline office maintains an extensive library of publications, research articles, and handouts on over 350 topics from African Violets to Yuccas.

Master Gardener Monthly Magazine: Please find our monthly magazine at <http://aces.nmsu.edu/dama>

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