

Become a Wayne County Master Gardener Volunteer

Who are Extension Master Gardener Volunteers (EMG)?

An Extension Master Gardener is a volunteer for NC Cooperative Extension. Volunteers are trained to assist their local county extension office to provide practical information to gardeners of all ages on home lawns, landscapes, and gardens.

Master Gardeners are ones who want to:

- Learn more about gardening
- Meet & connect with other gardeners
- Give back to others through volunteering



What do EMGs do?

- Volunteer hours are spent towards Wayne County Extension gardening educational programs.
- Volunteer opportunities include:
 - Assisting with gardening questions in the office plant clinic (10am to 1pm; Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays; April thru June)
 - Hands-on volunteering at Wayne Co. Extension Discovery Gardens and Wayne Regional Agricultural Fairground Garden
 - Hands-on volunteering with care of plants grown for Spring Plant Sale
 - Assist with various Extension gardening programs such as 4-H summer gardening camp, gardening programs/presentations, community outreach engagements, etc.
 - Expand gardening knowledge through Extension programs.

To Become an EMG

Step 1: The Application Process

- Selection into the Wayne County EMG program is through an application process based on:
 - Commitment to volunteering in sharing gardening knowledge through NC Cooperative Extension
 - Ability to volunteer on weekdays
 - Interest in learning more about gardening
 - A working e-mail address and basic internet skills
 - Pass a background check
 - **Prior gardening knowledge is NOT required**

To receive an application packet:

- Join our e-mail list at <https://wayne.ces.ncsu.edu/email-me> and select "Gardening".
- Announcements will be made through the gardening e-mail list of when applications are being accepted for an upcoming EMG training course.

Step 2: The EMG Training Course:

- Training course is held as additional volunteers are needed, usually annually or biennially.
- The course consists typically of approx. 28 classes that meet weekly during the daytime.
- Students are not to miss more than two core classes.
- Training classes prepare volunteers to answer gardening questions and diagnose common problems related to cultivating lawns, fruits and vegetables, and landscape plants.

Training Course Registration Cost:

- **Selected applicants are required to pay a registration cost of \$90 without a handbook or \$140 with a hard copy handbook.**
- Registration cost is non-refundable. Registration cost is not accepted until applicant is accepted into the training class.
- View the NC Extension Gardening Handbook online at: <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook>



Step 3: Beyond the EMG training course:

- After the training course, interns are required to volunteer 40 hours by the end of the year.
- After the internship, volunteers complete a minimum of 25 volunteer hours and 10 educational hours each year to remain active.

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