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## Become a Master Gardener

(Powhatan, VA) –

### Who are Powhatan and Goochland Master Gardeners?

Master Gardeners are members of the local community who take an active interest in their lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers and gardens. They are enthusiastic, willing to learn and to help others, and able to communicate with diverse groups of people.

What really sets Master Gardeners apart from other home gardeners is their special training in horticulture. In exchange for their training, persons who become Master Gardeners contribute time as volunteers, working through their Extension office to provide horticultural-related information to their communities.

### Is the Master Gardener Program for Me?

To help you decide if you should apply to be a Master Gardener, ask yourself these questions:

- Do I want to learn more about the culture and maintenance of many types of plants?
- Am I eager to participate in a practical and intense training program?
- Do I look forward to sharing my knowledge with people in my community?
- Do I have enough time to attend training and to complete the volunteer service?

If you answered yes to these questions, the Master Gardener program could be for you. Contact your local Extension Office in Powhatan (804) 598-5640 or Goochland (804) 556-5841 to request an application for the Master Gardener Program. Classes begin January 9, 2018 and continue until the end of March.

### Training

If accepted into the Master Gardener program, you will attend a Master Gardener training course. Classes are taught by Virginia Cooperative Extension specialists, agents, and local experts.

The program offers a minimum of 50 hours of instruction that covers topics including lawn care, ornamental trees and shrubs, insect, disease, and weed management; soils and plant nutrition, vegetable gardening; home fruit production; garden flowers; and water conservation. Check with your County Extension office for specific locations, dates, and times.

### Volunteer Commitment

*Invent the Future*

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

In exchange for training, participants are asked to volunteer time to their County Extension program. At least 50 hours of volunteer service within one year following the training is required to earn the title of “ Master Gardener.”

The type of service done by Master Gardeners varies according to community needs, and the abilities and interests of the Master Gardeners. Some Master Gardeners answer telephone requests for information related to gardening. Others staff plant clinics or displays in shopping malls or community centers. Master Gardeners may speak to local groups and conduct workshops. They may help establish community garden projects, work with 4-H youth, or assist their agent with news or radio releases related to gardening. The Master Gardener Coordinator in the County Extension office decides how volunteer time can be best utilized.

Master Gardeners are representatives of Virginia Cooperative Extension, the outreach arm of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University. In all volunteer work related to the program, Master Gardeners follow the research-based recommendations of Virginia Cooperative Extension. The title “Master Gardener” can only be used by volunteers when engaged in Extension-sponsored activities.

### **Certification**

Participants become certified Master Gardeners after they have completed the training course and fulfilled their volunteer commitment.

### **For More Information**

Find out if being a Master Gardener is for you. For additional information contact: Karen Webber at 804-556-2424 or send an email to [metz\\_webber@yahoo.com](mailto:metz_webber@yahoo.com).

If you would like information on the program, please visit [www.gpmga.org](http://www.gpmga.org) or call the Goochland Office at (804) 556-5841 or the Powhatan Office at (804) 598-5640.



Master Gardener helping client.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact the Goochland Extension Office at ((804) 556-5841/TDD\*) during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

\*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

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