



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

# Cooperative Extension

Master Gardener

## Spring 2025 Online Master Gardener Course Overview

Thank you for your interest in the online Master Gardener course for the higher elevations of northern Arizona! This course is offered online through D2L Brightspace, the University of Arizona's online learning management system. In order to participate, you must have reliable internet service, an updated browser compatible with D2L, and the ability to log in to the course at least once a week. Plan to spend around 3-4 hours each week working through the course material, including weekly readings, presentations, videos, quizzes, and assignments.

### Dates and Times

The class will run from Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> with one week off in mid-March. The class is **asynchronous**, meaning you work through the weekly content when it is convenient for you during the week. Asynchronous is not the same as "self-paced." You will be required to keep up with the weekly pace of the class. Weekly modules will open on Mondays at 12am and you will have until the following Sunday at 11:59pm to complete all course work for that week. The course will conclude on May 11th, 2025. The final exam will be due at this time.

### The Two Tracks:

There are two tracks to the online Master Gardener course. Please select the option that works best for you when you fill out your application.

#### ***Track 1: Arizona Master Gardener Certification (Fee: \$200) \****

Arizona Certified Master Gardener Volunteers are trained in researched-based home horticulture practices in order to serve their communities through gardening centered volunteerism and education. The Master Gardener program is one of the largest volunteer programs in the country, with over 83,000 volunteers nationwide. Track 1 might be best for you if you:

- Appreciate volunteerism and serving your community through education and environmental stewardship
- Enjoy helping others by sharing your horticultural knowledge
- Have the time to complete 50 volunteer hours within 13 months of completing the course to earn your Arizona Master Gardener Certification
- Are willing to commit to additional service and education hours each year to maintain your Arizona Master Gardener Certification

#### ***Requirements to become a Certified Master Gardener Volunteer***

- Attend each weekly class and complete weekly quizzes
- Pass the final exam with a score of 70% or higher
- Contribute 50 gardening-related volunteer service hours within 13 months of completion of the online course
- In following years commit to additional continuing education and volunteer hours as set by your county to maintain your Arizona Master Gardener Certification each year

## ***Track 2: Arizona Certificate of Home Horticulture (Fee: \$300) \****

Many people participate in the Master Gardener training as a requirement for their jobs or to gain valuable gardening information from University of Arizona professors, Extension Educators, and local industry experts. The second track of the online Master Gardener course is designed for those who have no intent to volunteer but wish to take the class for personal or professional development. There is no volunteer service required for this track. You will not earn the title Arizona Certified Master Gardener. Instead, you will earn an Arizona Certificate of Home Horticulture. Track 2 might be best for you if you:

- Need to take the class as a requirement for a job
- Are interested in learning the science of gardening for your own personal knowledge and projects
- Want to earn an Arizona Certificate of Home Horticulture to build your resume
- Have no time or interest in volunteering

### ***Requirements to earn an Arizona Certificate of Home Horticulture***

- Attend each weekly class and complete weekly quizzes
- Pass the final exam with a score of 70% or higher

*\*Note: Course fees do not include the Arizona Master Gardener Manual, which may be ordered online for \$55 plus shipping.*

### **Optional In-Person Workshops!**

In an effort to create more community among our online course participants we are offering four in-person workshops/field trips. These will be held once a month from February to May in Flagstaff and will cover some of the hands-on topics from the course.

- **February** – Soils: bring some of your garden soil and learn to perform the soil texture by feel test.
- **March** – Composting: learn how to turn your kitchen and garden waste into organic matter for your garden!
- **April** – Propagation: become a member of our free Grow Flagstaff! Seed Library and learn techniques for propagating plants.
- **May** – Volunteer in your Community: Field trip to a local garden to learn how Master Gardeners contribute in their communities.

### **Absences and Refund Policy**

You will be expected to complete each weekly module. If you anticipate being absent due to illness, travel, or any other reason, please notify your instructor by email ASAP to make arrangements. **If you fall three or more weeks behind during the course, you will be automatically withdrawn from the class with no refund.** Once you have been accepted into the course and you have paid your course fees, there will be no refunds issued.

### **Textbook**

The Arizona Master Gardener Manual is the textbook for the course. Once you have been accepted into the program, it can be purchased online for \$55 plus shipping through the University of Arizona bookstore. Here is the link: <https://shop.arizona.edu/9780999034101-TRADE>

*I understand that a volunteer commitment is required as part of the Arizona Master Gardener Certification track to this program. If I do not intend to volunteer, I will not earn the title Arizona Certified Master Gardener. Instead, I will choose to sign up for the Arizona Certificate of Home Horticulture track of this program. I further understand that if I miss three or more weeks during the course, I will be automatically withdrawn with no refund. Once I am accepted into the program and my fee is paid, I understand that no refunds will be issued.*

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*Signature*

*Date*



*Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Dr. Edward C. Martin, Associate Dean & Director, Extension & Economic Development, Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension, The University of Arizona.*

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