



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Cooperative Extension

Pima County - Master Gardener

## MASTER GARDENER APPLICATION FORM

Current employees of the University of Arizona are not permitted to volunteer for the U of A, and thus are not eligible for the Master Gardener Program.

**DUE BY Friday April 30, 2021**

Please print or type:

Please list your e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening or Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**Before you complete the application, please read this information about our program that is provided at the end of the application form, titled "About the Pima County Master Gardener Program."**

**Please initial here that you have read this article: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mission Statement:** Pima County Master Gardener volunteers, directed and supported by University of Arizona faculty and staff, educate residents by providing unbiased research-based horticulture practices and information that promote the development of healthy, sustainable communities.

**WHY DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A MASTER GARDENER?**

**GARDENING BACKGROUND** (List your interests, experience, and skills related to plants and gardening and/or horticultural training that you may have had.)

**ARE YOU OR HAVE YOU BEEN A DOCENT AND/OR VOLUNTEER FOR ANY ORGANIZATION? If so, please describe your experience.**

**ARE YOU COMFORTABLE SPEAKING WITH THE PUBLIC?** (Please describe your experience.)

**OCCUPATION(S):** Are you currently employed? If so, are you full time or part time? Will your schedule allow you to put in the needed class time and volunteer hours? If you are retired, what was your former occupation?

**ARE YOU AVAILABLE TO WORK IN THE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS ON THURSDAY MORNINGS DURING THE INTERNSHIP YEAR?** \_\_\_\_\_

**ARE YOU AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please initial each of the following statements after reading:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to an interview with the Program Coordinator or representatives of Master Gardener program and will accept their decision as to my suitability to join the educational program.

**IF I AM ACCEPTED AS A TRAINEE, I WILL:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Be available to attend Zoom classes on Tuesday mornings classes from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (August to mid-December) for approximately 50 hours of classroom training on gardening information and methods which will revert to on-site classroom training when COVID-19 guidelines permit.

\_\_\_\_\_ Commit to attend all classes provided, whether online or in person.

\_\_\_\_\_ After passing the training course, I will commit to the internship requirements listed in "About Us-- Pima County Master Gardeners" document.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pay the registration fee \$200.00 (payable to: PCCE) which covers the cost of reference materials which will become my personal property as well as the name badge and the green vest that represent the Master Gardeners.

\_\_\_\_\_ After certification, I will commit to 50 hours of volunteer service as a Master Gardener and 10 hours of continuing education per year to maintain the status of Master Gardener.

\_\_\_\_\_ Comply with policies and procedures of the Cooperative Extension and the UA.

\_\_\_\_\_ I give permission to the Pima County Cooperative Extension to use and publish photos/videos of myself for educational and promotional purposes.

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**Signature** **Date**

Please complete and return this application to: Master Gardener Training, Pima County Cooperative Extension, 4210 North Campbell Ave. Tucson Arizona 85719 OR submit via email to [avilav@arizona.edu](mailto:avilav@arizona.edu)



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## About the Pima County Master Gardener Program

Master Gardeners are volunteers who work with Cooperative Extension offices throughout the United States. Each state's land grant university oversees the Master Gardener program in that state. Here in Arizona, the Pima County Cooperative Extension (PCCE) and the Master Gardener program are part of the University of Arizona, which is Arizona's land grant university.

**Mission statement:** Pima County Master Gardener volunteers, directed and supported by University of Arizona faculty and staff, educate residents by providing unbiased research-based horticulture practices and information that promote the development of healthy, sustainable communities.

There are currently approximately 250 active Certified Master Gardener volunteers here in Pima County.

Persons selected to become Certified Master Gardeners complete approximately 50 hours of classroom training beginning the second week of August and continuing until the second week of December. Hopefully classes in 2021 will be taught in-person on site, depending on UA COVID protocol, but if not, they will begin virtually via Zoom until the situation improves. Once the classroom training is successfully completed, the intern period begins. The intern period is during the initial 50 hours of volunteer service of which 20 hours are spent assisting the Plant Clinic, and 30 hours in the Demonstration Gardens on Thursday mornings. Should the gardens be unavailable due to COVID restrictions during the internship period in 2022, alternatives will be provided. When this internship has been completed, the intern receives full Certified Master Gardener status.

To maintain Certified Master Gardener status, each volunteer must participate in 50 hours of approved service activities and complete 10 hours of continuing education training annually.

One of the most meaningful outreach activities of the Pima County Master Gardener program is the Plant Clinic. Plant Clinic volunteers answer landscape and gardening questions from the public. Currently the Plant Clinic is only being conducted online due to COVID restrictions.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Jeffrey C. Silvertooth, Associate Dean & Director, Economic Development & Extension, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, The University of Arizona. The University of Arizona is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation in its programs and activities.



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Master Gardeners also create and maintain demonstration gardens on site at the Pima County Extension Office by working on various garden committees, typically Thursday mornings throughout the year. These gardens are used for teaching purposes as well as showing the community best practices in local gardening.

In addition, Master Gardeners present landscape and gardening programs throughout Pima County, giving talks to various civic groups and community gardens. Library talks are usually given from October through April at several libraries around Tucson and Pima County, but currently they are offered via Zoom on a year-round basis.

Application forms will be accepted until **April 30th, 2021**. Applicants who are selected for interviews will be conducted via Zoom with the selection committee in May. Notification of acceptance will be given in June. For more information, contact the Pima County Cooperative Extension office at **520-626-2943**.