

ABOUT THE PIMA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Master Gardeners work as volunteers 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. Master Gardeners work as volunteers with the University of Arizona Pima County Cooperative Extension Office.

There are currently approximately 185 active Certified Master Gardener volunteers here in Pima County.

Persons qualify to become Certified Master Gardeners by completing approximately 60 hours of classroom training which is taught in Tucson at the Pima County Extension Office beginning on the second week of August and continuing until the second week of December. The intern period is during the initial 50 hours of volunteer service of which 20 hours are spent staffing the Plant Clinic. 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 service activities and complete 10 hours of continuing education training annually.

One of the many functions of the Pima County Master Gardeners is to staff the Plant Clinic. They answer landscape and gardening question over the telephone or examine plant samples brought into the clinic office.

Master Gardeners also present landscape and gardening programs through the city, giving talks through various civic groups and community gardens. Library talks are given October through April at several libraries around Tucson and Pima County.

In addition, Master Gardeners create and maintain demonstration gardens on site at the Pima County Extension Office by working on various garden committees weekly throughout the year.

Application forms will be accepted in **January 13th through May 1st, 2020**. Applicants who are selected for interviews will meet with the selection committee during the week of May. Notification of acceptance will be given around June. For more information contact the Pima County Cooperative Extension Office at **520-626-5161**.