What is a Yuma County Master Gardener?

A Master Gardener is a volunteer educator within his or her community after receiving specialized training in horticulture. Volunteer educators serve as partners with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension to promote, inform, and work with communities & leaders, industry, and individuals. Volunteers present programs on all aspects of horticulture, including turf, landscape, vegetables, trees, shrubs and pest management.

There are several levels of Master Gardener status. Each status level is determined by level of training and internship (community education service) experience.

- **Master Gardener Trainee:**
  One who is currently in classroom training to become a Master Gardener but has not yet taken or passed the final examination on course material.

- **Associate Master Gardener:**
  One who has completed the Master Gardener Program classroom training requirement, achieved 70 percent or better cumulative average on the final examination and is currently fulfilling the required 50 hours volunteer service.

- **Master Gardener:**
  One who has completed the full Master Gardener Program; classroom and initial 50 hours; and is actively volunteering (25 hrs/year) with U of A Cooperative Extension fulfilling the program requirements necessary to remain active. When a person ceases active volunteering with Cooperative Extension and continued education, he or she also relinquishes the title of Master Gardener.

- **Key Components of the Program:**
  - 50 hours of classroom training required
  - Passing of open book mid-term and final exams with a minimum grade of 70%
  - Complete 50 hours of volunteer internship within one year

- **Frequently Asked Questions:**
  - **Cost?** – Cover the complete training program, books, liquid refreshments at each class, duplication of all materials and badges upon graduation. Grants are available for those who cannot afford the program.
  - **Class Size?** - limited to 20 individuals selected by Arizona Cooperative Extension, Yuma
  - **Class Location?** – Mainly at the Cooperative Extension Office but individual classes may meet in various locations.
  - **When will Class Begin?** – New classes begins each fall