



## The Texas Master Gardener Program

The Texas Master Gardener Program is a volunteer development program of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Master Gardener volunteers receive in-depth horticultural training. In return, they provide volunteer service through AgriLife Extension by delivering horticultural education to their communities. Program participants should be able to communicate with the public by telephone, personal contact, as a speaker or through written correspondence. Master Gardener volunteers serve as “horticultural docents” supervised by AgriLife Extension personnel who assign, review and facilitate volunteer work.

Step 1: To gain the title of **Master Gardener Intern**, a Trainee

- receives a minimum of fifty (50) hours of instruction
- passes an examination

The volunteer aspect of the Master Gardener program allows individuals to dedicate their time and talents to educate and enhance their local community utilizing the science and art of horticulture.

Step 2: Master Gardener Interns:

- give 50 hours of volunteer service in AgriLife Extension initiated projects in Erath County within one year of their training date.
- are certified as a Master Gardener when all requirements are met

Step 3: Re-certification of a Master Gardener is an annual process that requires:

- 20 volunteer service hours
- 10 hours of continuing education credits

**First class, Thursday, March 26, 2026 will meet 9:00 am until 4:00 pm (brown bag lunch)**

**Subsequent training classes will meet every Thursday through May 2026. Classes will be held at Erath County Courthouse, AgriLife Extension Conference room/second floor (100 W. Washington, Stephenville) The course fee (one time fee) is \$175 payable when application is returned. Checks payable to : Erath Ag Committee.**

You are welcome to contact me, if you have questions or visit ([erath.agrilife.org](http://erath.agrilife.org)).

CEA Contact Information:

Lonnie Jenschke

Texas Master Gardener Coordinator

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

100 W Washington Second Floor

Stephenville, TX 76401

254-965-1460

Texas Master Gardener –Erath County – Application – Spring 2026

The Master Gardener training program is for twelve (12) months. Upon completion of all requirements, participants are certified as Texas Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners then re-certify annually through volunteer service and continuing education.

1. I desire to be a Master Gardener volunteer in Erath County. I understand that Master Gardeners are trained volunteers - community educators, who share their horticultural knowledge and gardening experience with their fellow citizens. If accepted in the Master Gardener training program, to complete certification:
  - I will volunteer a minimum of 50 hours in Extension initiated education programs in 2026-2027
  - I will complete the classroom training course, including a final exam.
  - I understand to re-certify annually, a minimum of 20 volunteer hours and 10 hours of continuing education is required in Extension sanctioned programs
  - **I agree to a background check - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service volunteer requirement**

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Applicant's Name:** (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years living in Erath Co. \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your gardening/horticulture and related fields experience and/or training? Include experience or knowledge of vegetables, herbs, roses, composting, propagation, turf, trees, fruit, nuts, perennials, etc. What is your gardening story? – When did you start gardening, have you worked professionally in horticulture or a related field, what is your favorite thing about gardening, etc.

## 2. Statements of agreement

- I understand that the Master Gardener program is a program sponsored by the Erath County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.
- I understand that as a Certified Texas Master Gardener, I represent –Erath County, the Erath County office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and The Texas A&M System and will adhere to their policies and guidelines.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any AgriLife Extension activity are encouraged to contact the Erath County Extension Office to discuss specific needs.***



Educational programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating