



What is a Master Gardener Volunteer?

In New York State the master gardener program is a volunteer service program not a course or certificate.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) programs are managed individually by county CCE associations. Volunteer training occurs at different intervals for each county. Counties select volunteers as needed through an application process from their pool of residents of that county. It is rare that a county will select an applicant from another county.

Core horticulture training is the first requirement of the CCE Master Gardener Volunteer commitment, followed by an agreement to volunteer at the host county for one or more years for a specific number of hours. Once you stop volunteering you are no longer a master gardener as it is not a certificate program.

If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer in Erie County, please contact the CCE Erie County office at erie@cornell.edu (716)652-5400

Examples of Master Gardener Volunteerism

Answering horticultural questions via phone or e-mail through the Master Gardener HotLine

Providing speakers for garden clubs and other organizations

Teaching gardening classes

Supporting school and community projects

Staffing booths at fairs, garden shows and other public events

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