

HOW TO BECOME A PRAIRIE MASTER GARDENER

You can gain certification as a Master Gardener if you wish. Our program is designed to suit your personal needs. You may join the program at any time and take the classes in any order you wish. Classes are informative and enjoyable and will keep you current with all aspects of the gardening world.

To certify you need to:

- complete six core classes and two elective classes
- submit a volunteer log of at least 40 hours
- complete a certification project

There is a one-time \$50.00 registration fee. Cost of classes is \$25.00 per class for members - \$35.00 for non-members plus a materials fee if required.

How to Register

Please contact the Saskatoon School of Horticulture. We will need your name, mailing address, telephone number and email address in order to register you for the program. Payment may be made by cheque, money order or email transfer.

Saskatoon School of Horticulture (located in the Masonic Temple)
1021 Saskatchewan Crescent West
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7M 5J6

Phone: 306-931-4769 (GROW)
E-mail: growyourfuture@gmail.com

The Six Core Classes - All six of these must be completed as part of your Master Gardener certification.

Soils - Good gardening begins with the soil. Learn to know the soil in which you garden, the components of healthy soil, how to garden in a way which strengthens rather than destroys the soil.

Vegetables - Learn the basics of growing your own vegetables. Learn which vegetables do well in our climate and meet the new varieties and cultivars.

Fruits - We grow a wide variety of fruits in Saskatchewan. Learn about new varieties and what it takes to be a successful fruit grower.

Woody Ornamentals - Trees and shrubs add to the beauty of our landscape. Meet the trees and shrubs which thrive in our climate and learn about what you can do to ensure healthy and long-lived plants.

Plants – This class is about how plants grow. Learn about how plants are structured and how they reproduce. Understand why minerals, air and light work together for healthy plant growth, as well as the role the environment plays.

Solving Plant Problems - This is an introduction regarding how to discover what is destroying your plants and what to do about it. Learn about common plant diseases and garden pests.

Elective Classes - Any two elective classes must be completed as part of your Master Gardener certification.

Horticulture Therapy

Share Your Knowledge

Floral Design

Composting

Propagation

... and more!

Advanced Classes & Workshops

Pruning

Landscape Design

Garden Planning

Alternative Growing Methods

... and more!

*** All classes are open to everyone, whether you are aiming for certification or not. ***

Volunteering

Master Gardeners are first and foremost, available as educated volunteers in their communities. A major requirement to complete certification as a Prairie Master Gardener is 40 hours of volunteering in your community.

What qualifies as volunteer service? The list of possibilities is as endless as your imagination. Just about the only thing which doesn't qualify is the work you do in your own back yard or your own 40 acres. This is, after all, about service to the community. Once you are certified, 20 hours of volunteering per year is required to maintain your certification.

Here are some ideas and examples of volunteer activities carried out by master gardeners in Saskatchewan, some done alone, some as part of a group.

- Planting and caring for flower boxes or flower beds at care homes and nursing homes, at churches, or similar facilities;
- Designing, planning and caring for a mini-park in a vacant lot in the center of a small Saskatchewan town;
- Planting spring flowering bulbs for someone in your community;
- Working at Gardenscape or any other trade show with a gardening theme;
- Landscaping public spaces , as a current project does at J.S. Wood Library in Saskatoon;
- Working with children to create green spaces and gardens in schoolyards;
- Writing articles and columns for newspapers, magazines, the PMG newsletter;
- Teaching gardening classes;
- Taking part in the steering committee of the PMG program; editing a newsletter, keeping the records.
- and much, much more!

Certification Project - Think open book, take home assignment....

It consists of a series of questions designed so that you can demonstrate your ability to find gardening resources and knowledge which apply to your community. Through answering these questions you will show how you would apply that knowledge in particular situations.

As resources, you may use books, magazines, the internet or your grandmother's wisdom, as long as you acknowledge the sources that you used in sufficient detail that someone else can locate those resources.

The research project is a take-home project and you will have up to a month to complete it. Prior to this you will have completed the six core classes, two elective classes and the 40 volunteer hours.