

Master Gardener Projects

Extending our research-based knowledge to the public through volunteers

- **Fresh From the Heart Food Donation and Education**
- **Christmas Box House Horticultural Education**
- **Gilgal Gardens**
- **Magna Elementary**
- **Murray Park**
- **Plant Diagnostic Clinics**
- **Salt Lake County Metro Jail Horticulture Program**
- **Tracy Aviary Gardens**
- **Utah Aids Foundation**
- **Wheeler Farm Gardens**

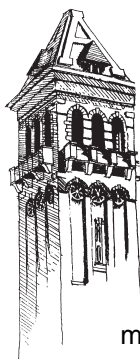
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What is *Utah State University Extension?*



Though Utah State University Extension is nearly 100 years old, Extension is as vital as ever, and perhaps even more so, due to the increased diversity and complexity of the issues people encounter today. The Cooperative Extension System continues its longstanding tradition of extending the university to the people to improve the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities.

Extension is unique in structure and function. As a partnership of federal, state, and local governments, the Extension System with its network of county offices and state land grant universities is in a position to deliver educational programs at the grassroots level throughout the nation. With its university faculty and staff serving the states and territories located in over 3,000 counties across the country, the County Extension Office is truly the front door to America's land-grant universities. This integration of teaching, research, and public service enables the Cooperative Extension System to respond to critical and emerging issues with research-based, unbiased information.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maggie Shao".

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UtahState
UNIVERSITY

SALT LAKE CO.
extension

Elevating Individuals, Families, and
Communities since 1907



Utah State University Extension Master Gardener Program



History

The Master Gardener program originated in the early 1970's in Washington State. In exchange for training in a broad range of garden-related topics, volunteers donate their time and efforts towards solving landscape and garden problems within their community.

The Master Gardener Volunteer becomes an "extension" of the Extension Agent, helping disseminate research-based, unbiased information that allows clients to solve horticulture problems effectively with low cost recommendations and minimal environmental impact.

With almost one million residents of Salt Lake County, there are a lot of landscape and gardening questions to answer and plant related problems to solve! Master Gardener Volunteers extend Extension Horticulture Agents' ability to educate homeowners and landscape professionals about horticultural best management practices.

Participants are selected blindly on the basis of their application survey/questionnaire responses. Preference is given to individuals with a strong commitment towards volunteer service and a deeper understanding of how and why plants grow, plus their willingness to represent Utah State University Extension and help fulfill our mission of education.

Utah State University Master Gardener Program

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40
HOURS

In-depth classes





During approximately 40 classroom hours, Master Gardener Volunteers learn a broad range of information on soils, nutrients, plants, and pests. Utah State University Extension Specialists, and local experts teach in-depth college-level classes with time allowed for students' specific questions. The intensive, twice-weekly class schedule requires true dedication and commitment from Master Gardener students.

40
HOURS

Hands-on skills

Master Gardener Volunteer students learn practical skills while donating time and effort towards educational projects. All Apprentice Master Gardeners must dedicate 40 hours of service and education to achieve Master Gardener Certification. Projects include community talks, assisting at workshops, demonstration gardens, Plant Diagnostic Clinics and the Master Gardener phone "Helpline", and the MG website. Projects are a form of "service-learning" to help reinforce students' new knowledge. This service also provides the residents of Salt Lake County and Utah with research-based information and technical assistance in gardening and home horticulture.

Application and Registration

-  The Master Gardener Training program begins each year in January or February.
-  Classes are held twice weekly for 2.5 hours each and run through April.
-  To receive an application you must attend an orientation held the previous fall for acceptance for the upcoming year. Dates, times, and locations are posted on our website no later than mid-August.
-  Class fee is \$150.00, which includes instruction, the Master Gardener Manual, and other reference materials.

