

# Become a Wayne County Master Gardener Volunteer

## Who are Extension Master Gardener Volunteers (EMG)?

An Extension Master Gardener is a volunteer for NC Cooperative Extension. Volunteers are trained to assist their local county extension office to provide practical information to gardeners of all ages on home lawns, landscapes, and gardens.

### Master Gardeners are ones who want to:

- Learn more about gardening
- Meet & connect with other gardeners
- Give back to others through volunteering



## What do EMGs do?

- Volunteer hours are spent towards Wayne County Extension gardening educational programs.
- Volunteer opportunities include:
  - Assisting with gardening questions in the office plant clinic (10am to 1pm; Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays; April thru June)
  - Hands-on volunteering at Wayne Co. Extension Discovery Gardens and Wayne Regional Agricultural Fairground Garden
  - Hands-on volunteering with care of plants grown for Spring Plant Sale
  - Assist with various Extension gardening programs such as 4-H summer gardening camp, gardening programs/presentations, community outreach engagements, etc.
  - Expand gardening knowledge through Extension programs.

## To Become an EMG

### Step 1: The Application Process

- Selection into the Wayne County EMG program is through an application process based on:
  - Commitment to volunteering in sharing gardening knowledge through NC Cooperative Extension
  - Ability to volunteer on weekdays
  - Interest in learning more about gardening
  - A working e-mail address and basic internet skills
  - Pass a background check
  - **Prior gardening knowledge is NOT required**

### To receive an application packet:

- Join our e-mail list at <https://wayne.ces.ncsu.edu/email-me> and select "Gardening".
- Announcements will be made through the gardening e-mail list of when applications are being accepted for an upcoming EMG training course.

## Step 2: The EMG Training Course:

- Training course is held as additional volunteers are needed, usually annually or biennially.
- The course consists typically of approx. 28 classes that meet weekly during the daytime.
- Students are not to miss more than two core classes.
- Training classes prepare volunteers to answer gardening questions and diagnose common problems related to cultivating lawns, fruits and vegetables, and landscape plants.

## Training Course Registration Cost:

- **Selected applicants are required to pay a registration cost of \$90 without a handbook or \$140 with a hard copy handbook.**
- Registration cost is non-refundable. Registration cost is not accepted until applicant is accepted into the training class.
- View the NC Extension Gardening Handbook online at: <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook>



## Step 3: Beyond the EMG training course:

- After the training course, interns are required to volunteer 40 hours by the end of the year.
- After the internship, volunteers complete a minimum of 25 volunteer hours and 10 educational hours each year to remain active.

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