

May 2018

Dear Friend:

Thank you for expressing an interest in the Rutgers Master Gardener Program of Union County. Enclosed are the application form, program information, and the course requirements.

The purpose of the Rutgers Master Gardener Program is to train Union County residents to become volunteer Master Gardeners. Applicants who are accepted into the program receive in-depth and hands-on training in horticulture from Rutgers, The State University faculty and professional staff. In exchange for the training, applicants agree to make a commitment to provide 60 hours of volunteer service working in Union County on approved volunteer gardening committees within a 12—18 month period. Successful graduates become Certified Rutgers Master Gardeners upon completion of their volunteer commitment.

Our goal is to build a strong, involved, and active Master Gardener Program. Our members consist of people who believe in our volunteer mission and have the desire to enhance this program. At the same time, the program helps build a network of educated, committed and experienced volunteers who enjoy the rewards of gardening through volunteering, education and experiencing the benefits of meeting new friends and socializing as well.

I look forward to your success in the Master Gardener Program. If you feel you need more information regarding this program please feel free to call the RCE Office at 908-654-9854.

**County Board
of Chosen
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Sincerely,

Madeline Flahive DiNardo

**Madeline Flahive DiNardo
County Agricultural Agent
Enclosures**

MFD/TH



PROGRAM INFORMATION

Classes will be held on Tuesday Mornings

From: 10AM – 12:30PM

Classes will be held in the

Rutgers Meeting Room located on the

2nd floor of

The Union County Colleen Fraser Building

300 North Ave East

Westfield, NJ

**The Class of 2019 will begin on
Tuesday, October 16, 2018 and run through
May 2019**

Upon acceptance to the program –

A \$200.00 materials fee will be due along with your signed volunteer agreement form. The fee covers the cost of all textbooks, notebooks, and class materials.

**All applications are due in the Extension
Office by
August 31, 2018**

Acceptance letters will be sent out the week of
September 10, 2019

**Some topics that will be presented by the
Rutgers Cooperative Extension staff and
faculty are:**

- Basic Botany
- Entomology
- Integrated Pest Management
- Pesticide Safety
- Plant Pathology
- Soil Testing & Fertilizers
- Tree Maintenance
- Turf Management
- Vegetable Gardening
- Wildlife Management



Join any of the exciting committees that offer educational services to the county residents.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Rutgers Master Gardener Program
Union County

- Children's Programs
- Continuing Ed Programs
- Community Projects
- Demonstration Garden
- Flower Cutting Garden
- Herb Garden
- Sharing Garden
- Executive Board
- Grants
- Garden Helpline Staff
- Introduction to Horticultural Therapy
- Publicity
- Speakers Bureau
- The Spring Garden Fair

The programs are educational in nature and may involve environmental improvements, therapeutic gardening, community and school gardening projects, or other programs according to need.

**QUESTIONS:
908-654-9854 ext. 2**

2018-19 RUTGERS MASTER GARDENER COURSE REQUIREMENTS

APPLICATION PROCESS: Twenty-five applicants may be accepted into the program.

The deadline for submitting the applications is August 31, 2018.

Send your application **forms** to: **Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County
Master Gardener Program
300 North Avenue East,
Westfield, N.J. 07090.**

**PLEASE COMPLETE & SIGN ALL THREE PAGES OF THE RUTGERS NJAES APPLICATION.
BE SURE TO INDICATE WHICH VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES YOU ARE INTERESTED IN.
*****UNION COUNTY DOES NOT REQUIRE REFERENCES*******

VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT: All students enrolled in the program are expected to provide a minimum of 60 hours of volunteer service by participating in approved Rutgers Cooperative Extension volunteer activities within a 12 – 18 month period. We ask that ten (10) hours of your 60-hour requirement be spent working in the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden located in the Watchung Reservation.

ACCEPTANCE PROCESS:

You will receive notice of your acceptance the week of September 10th, 2018. Upon acceptance into the program, you will receive a copy of the RCE Master Gardener Policy and a volunteer agreement form. A **NON-REFUNDABLE** material fee of \$200.00 will be due, (at that time) along with your signed agreement form. The material fee will cover the cost of all training manuals, textbooks and publications, and a home garden Soil Testing Kit.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The requirements for graduation are:

- Participate in at least six hours of volunteer activities by graduation May 2019.
- Students are expected to attend all classes, IN THE EVENT a session must be missed, it is the student's responsibility to complete a self-study of that presentation. Other options will be explained and discussed on the first day of class.
- Pass an open book final exam.
- Complete two hours of "Garden Helpline" office training.
- Complete class assignments.
- Plan to work on the Master Gardener Spring Fair. Volunteer assistance is needed for preparation of the fair that is held on the first Sunday after Mother's Day every year.
- Complete any other volunteer training required by Rutgers University.