



**RUTGERS NJAES COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF UNION COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER COURSE APPLICATION**

I wish to become a participant in the Rutgers Master Gardener training program and would like to be accepted for the next class. I understand that upon successful completion of the training, I must perform the required hours of volunteer service within the necessary timeframe to attain the title of Rutgers Certified Master Gardener. I also understand that there are annual recertification requirements to continue as a Rutgers NJAES Certified Master Gardener / Educator, and that there is a cost to cover course, administrative, and program expenses.

Signature: _____ **Date of Application:** _____

PLEASE PRINT: (Applications are due by August 31, 2018)

Name: _____ **Address:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____ **County:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

E-Mail _____ **Occupation:** _____

In Case of Emergency, Please Contact: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Please complete the following:

1. Briefly describe your interest, experience and/or training in gardening/ horticulture: _____

2. Please describe your level of expertise in gardening & horticulture:

____ Beginner ____ Intermediate ____ Advanced ____ Expert

3. Why do you wish to become a RCE Master Gardener volunteer?

4. Do you belong to a garden club or environmental group? If so, which one (s)? _____

5. Please list past volunteer experiences, community, or civic activities and positions held:

6. Please list any hobbies: _____

7. Please list any skills in non-horticultural areas (writing, computers, graphics, art or photography, public speaking, Quickbooks software):

8. Do you anticipate any circumstances that would keep you from attending class, fulfilling the minimum volunteer commitments or participating in other volunteer activities? Yes ___ No ___

If so, please describe here: _____

9. How did you learn of the Master Gardener Program?

As a Rutgers Union County Master Gardener, you are committing to complete at least 60 hours of volunteer service to the Master Gardener Program within a 12-18 month period of enrollment in the program. After completing the course, **ten (10) of the 60 hours are to be spent working in the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden in Watchung Reservation.**

The Master Gardeners of Union County operate a telephone Garden Helpline for county residents to call in with gardening questions and problems. As a Master Gardener Student, you will be required to complete "Helpline" training and work a 2-hour shift on the Garden Helpline with an experienced "Helpliner." The Helpline office is located in the Extension Office. The Helpline operates during the day.

Students will design an Integrated Pest Management Plan for their own home.

Students will complete any additional training as required by Rutgers University

Another requirement for graduation is to serve at least six hours on a Master Gardener Committee (before graduation). You may serve on several committees. You will have an opportunity to meet the committee chairs and learn more about their activities during class sessions.

“CHECK THE COMMITTEES THAT YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN SERVING”

******* BE SURE TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION AND SIGN THE APPLICATION*******

- ARTS & CRAFTS:** Create items for the Master Gardener Spring Garden Fair and other events.
- CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS:** events held at the Demonstration Garden at Trailside for visiting camps, schools, and scout troops.
- CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE:**
 - Program:** Make arrangements for speakers for the MG monthly meetings.
 - Summer Events:** Arrange programs for Master Gardeners such as: Yoga in the Garden, planting techniques, cooking classes, etc.
 - Field Trips:** Organize field trips for the MG’s.
 - Hospitality:** Set-up refreshments for meetings or other events.
- COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE:** Provide assistance and advice for community landscaping projects, such as rain gardens, and community food gardens.
- DEMONSTRATION GARDEN:** Plan, plant and maintain the Demonstration Garden at Trailside in the Watchung Reservation. (Days or evenings)
 - Cutting Garden:** The “Flower Cutting Garden” is located in the demonstration garden. Master Gardeners arrange fresh cut flowers and donate them to hospitals and agencies that serve cancer patients.
 - Herb Garden:** Work in the Herb Garden located at the Demonstration Garden.
 - Sharing Garden:** Work in the vegetable garden and greenhouse located at the Demonstration Garden at Trailside. Harvest vegetables and keep records for Food Pantry donations. Assist with arranging for delivery to food pantries.
- EXECUTIVE BOARD:** Plan and manage Master Gardener program activities by serving as a committee chair or an elected officer of the Board (Evenings).
- HELPLINE COMMITTEE:** Answer gardening questions and identifying plant problems and insects for clientele at the Extension office. Participate in community events that request Master Gardeners to man a garden question and answer table. (Days at the Extension Office - Community Events on weekends)
- INTRO TO HORTICULTURAL THERAPY:** Participate in programs for adults and children with various disabilities. (Days, occasional evenings)
- PUBLICITY COMMITTEE:** includes: writers, photography, and website & computer technology and newsletter production.
- SPEAKERS BUREAU:** Give horticultural lectures to civic groups. (Days or evenings)
- SPRING GARDEN FAIR:** Work with other Master Gardeners on this annual event.

Signature: _____ Date: _____