

2018 Master Gardener Training Course Massachusetts Master Gardener Association

The Massachusetts Master Gardener Association is comprised of amateur and professional horticulturalists with a mission to promote horticultural knowledge to the public through volunteerism. MMGA Master Gardeners become trained and certified through an intensive training program. The Master Gardener Training course (MGT) consists of fourteen classroom and lab modules, including soil science, botany, entomology, plant pathology, pruning and propagation. Courses are conducted by both academic and industry professionals. Starting in 2017 the MGT course will be held at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society Education Building, at Elm Bank, in Wellesley, MA and at the Worcester Horticultural Society's Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA. Students can choose the location that better suits their needs when registering. The 2018 MGT course will begin in April 2018 and run through October 2018. Classroom training will be held in the Spring and Fall, while hands-on training will be required throughout the growing season (with the bulk of hands-on work to be completed during the summer). In Wellesley, Spring class sessions will be held over seven Thursdays, beginning April 12th, from 9am-3pm. The second session will be held over seven Thursdays, from 9-3pm, beginning on September 13th. In Boylston the sessions will be held on Tuesdays from 9-3 starting April 10th and in the Fall September 11th. Both Spring and Fall sessions are required for all students.

In addition to attending classes, completing reading and homework assignments, and successfully completing take home exams, students are expected to complete a 60-hour volunteer apprenticeship (which serves as the hands-on learning segment of the course). Apprenticeship work may begin as of the start of class, and must be completed by one week prior to graduation (See Guidelines for Master Gardener Student Volunteering). Homework and handouts will be distributed electronically. Students are expected to have access to and be familiar with email, Internet, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe Acrobat (.pdf files), and to receive and send pictures in jpeg format. To apply for the 2018 MGT course, please submit your application and a \$25 non-refundable application fee to the MMGA Class Registrar (address included on application if you are mailing a check instead of paying online). Applications sent after December 30th must include a \$25 late fee. Full tuition and materials fee (\$550; \$150) are due upon acceptance. For questions or further information, please email one of the Training Course Coordinators, Steve Shaw, at trainingeast@massmastergardeners.org or Cheryl Monroe at trainingwest@massmastergardeners.org.

The MMGA cannot give refunds for withdrawals within a week of the program start date, for programs already in progress, or for class sessions you have already attended.

If you are accepted into the class, may we list you in the Master Gardener Directory? (Yes, No)

How did you learn about the Master Gardener program? (e.g., Newspaper, MHS Literature, Referred by Master Gardener (name), TV/Radio, MHS Staff, MHS Website, MMGA Website, Other)

How many years have you been gardening?

What is/was your career?

Are/were you ever a member of the green industry?

If yes, in what capacity? (e.g., Landscaper, Garden Designer, Garden Center Employee, Grower/Farmer, Garden Maintenance, Other)

Please indicate the areas of gardening in which you feel competent: (e.g., General Gardening, Vegetables, Perennials, Fruit, Woody Ornamentals, Natives, Orchids, Houseplants, Herbs, Lawns, Bonsai, Organic Gardening, Roses, Soil/Compost, Other)

Please indicate other skills with which you feel competent: (e.g., Teaching/Demonstration, Pruning/Grafting, Docent, Public Speaking, Writing/Researching, Other)

What coursework or training related to gardening or horticulture have you had that you feel might help you as a Master Gardener?

Please list your past or present horticultural group affiliations (e.g. garden clubs, plant societies, community gardens, etc.) and the length of time that you have been affiliated with these groups.

Applicants accepted into the Master Gardener Training Program will be expected to meet the following responsibilities:

1. To complete the Training Program including passing the exam with a minimum score of 80%.
2. To meet the course's minimum attendance policy. (The maximum number of allowed absences is two full-day classes. Three tardies of 25 minutes or more are the equivalent of one half-day absence.) The MMGA reserves the right to withdraw candidates from the program. Candidates who are withdrawn may request reinstatement for the following training session by explaining in writing why classes were missed.
3. To complete sixty hours (including benchmarks set during the course) of approved volunteering by one week prior to graduation.
4. To complete all required course work and homework by the last class. This includes a final take-home exam.

Successful graduates will be recognized as MMGA Certified Master Gardeners

In order to remain an active Master Gardener, MGs must:

1. Become a member of the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association, and to maintain membership in good standing.
2. Submit quarterly records of volunteer hours.
3. Commit at least 30 hours of approved volunteering on a yearly basis.
4. Attend necessary continuing education programs.

Please note: Although the MMGA may accept candidates who are involved in the green industry, this is not a professional certification. Master Gardener certification MAY NOT be used to advertise for fee-based services. Advertising oneself as a Master Gardener indicates that you intend to provide your services free of charge.

If you would like to pursue acceptance into the 2018 Massachusetts Master Gardener Association Master Gardener Training class, please enclose your application, along with a nonrefundable registration fee of \$25. Cheques may be made out to MMGA, Inc. The tuition fee of \$550 and materials fee of \$150 (total \$675) is due within two weeks of acceptance into the program.

Send your application and registration fee to:

FOR WELLESLEY LOCATION
Stephen Shaw
MMGA Class Coordinator
37 Sullivan Place
Millbury, MA 01527

FOR TOWER HILL LOCATION
Cheryl Monroe MMGA class coordinator
225 General Hobbs Rd
Jefferson.MA 01522