

2016 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 2017 MGT course will begin in April 2017 and run through October 2017. 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 6th thru May 18th, from 9am-3pm. The second session will be held over seven Thursdays, from 9-3pm, beginning on September 14th thru October 26th. In Boylston the sessions will be held on Tuesdays from 9-3 starting April 11 thru May 23rd and in the Fall September 12th thru October 24th. 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 2017 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 (\$525; \$150) are due upon acceptance. For questions or further information, please email one of the Training Course Coordinators, Steve Shaw, at sgshaw@aol.com or Cheryl Monroe at cmmymail@gmail.com.

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 not attended.