The mission of the Clemson Extension Master Gardener Program is to select, train, and utilize knowledgeable volunteers to facilitate the educational work of the local Consumer Horticulture Agent, by delivering research-based information to citizens of the state.
What is the Clemson Extension Master Gardener Program?
This volunteer training program is administered by Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service. Introduced in Charleston County in 1981, the South Carolina Master Gardener Program is now offered in 31 counties in South Carolina.

The Master Gardener Program is divided into two parts: instruction and service.

Instruction: Participants receive at least 40 hours of intensive, practical horticultural training during the Master Gardener Training Course (MGTC). Topics covered in the MGTC include soils and plant nutrition, entomology, plant physiology and pathology, vegetable gardening, tree and small fruit culture, lawn management, culture of woody ornamentals, and problem solving. Satisfying the instruction component requires regular classroom attendance and passing a final exam.

Service: Participants will donate at least 40 hours of educational service in order to complete the program and receive the title of “South Carolina Master Gardener.”

Will I learn more after becoming a Master Gardener?
South Carolina Master Gardeners never stop learning. Volunteer activities, Master Gardener association meetings, Extension in-service trainings, field trips, and more offer Master Gardeners a wide range of opportunities to broaden their knowledge-base, develop new skills, exchange program ideas, and forge new friendships.

Is the South Carolina Master Gardener Program for you?
Do I want to learn more about plants, pests, landscaping and gardening?
Do I want to participate in an intensive, practical horticultural training program?
Am I willing to share my knowledge with others in my community?
Do I have the time to commit to both the training and the volunteer service?

If you answered “yes” to these questions, then the South Carolina Master Gardener Program could be for you.

Master Gardeners have fun too!
The South Carolina Master Gardener Program is not all work and no play. The social aspect is fostered with formal and informal gatherings such as lunch-n-learns, workdays, cookouts, and covered dish dinners. Activities such as these provide Master Gardeners with time to socialize, discuss new ideas as well as to forge new and/or reinforce old friendships.

What is expected of South Carolina Master Gardeners?
South Carolina Master Gardeners share their knowledge and skills in a number of ways: answering home horticulture calls at the Extension office, speaking to garden and civic clubs, working with youth or senior groups, and assisting communities with horticultural projects. Volunteer activities are coordinated through the local county Extension office.

Many Master Gardeners continue in the program beyond the first year and far exceed the expected initial 40 hours of service. Master Gardeners are motivated by their willingness to help and the personal satisfaction of educating the public about consumer horticulture.

I want to become a Clemson Extension Master Gardener.
Please send me information about the next training program.

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Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.