



Frequently Asked Questions SC Master Gardener Online Course

Will I automatically become a SC Master Gardener if I take this course?

You will NOT earn the title of Clemson Extension Master Gardener simply by taking the online class. The online program was developed to meet the needs of students where local in-person classes are either full or unavailable. To become a certified Clemson Extension Master Gardener, students must consent to a background check, pass all quizzes and activities as well as take and pass the end of course exam. At that time, students will be put in contact with their local Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service Master Gardener Coordinator to arrange the fulfillment of the volunteer obligation of 40 hours/year in a Clemson Extension Service Office. Please note that some counties have specific volunteer requirements which may conflict with a participant's work hours. For more information see: [Master Gardener Volunteer Requirements by County](#).

How many people are enrolled and will I get to know the other students?

The maximum number of students in this class is 40. Students are encouraged to interact via discussion forums.

What is the registration deadline?

February 9, 2021 No late registrations will be accepted.

What will I learn in this class and how will I learn it online?

Topics covered in the training include basic botany, plant physiology, entomology, plant diseases, soils, water, woody plant care, sustainable gardening, herbaceous ornamentals, turfgrass, fruit and vegetable gardening. Topics in the online SC Master Gardener training are organized into modules that consist of videos, reading assignments, discussion boards, quizzes and activities.

In-person Master Gardener Class	Online Master Gardener Class
Weekly presentations by content experts and reading	Videos of the same and reading
Discussion in the class (creating community)	Discussion boards, blogs and wikis (creating community)
Homework and/or weekly quizzes	Quizzes (repeatable)
Field trips and/or hands-on activities	Activities to practice at home

How does new material become available?

A new module will open after the student has completed the previous one. It is advised that all students complete the quiz and activity for the current module before moving forward. Time goes by quickly and it is easy to get behind. Do not let this happen to you. All modules will remain open until the end of the course for students to access.

Do I need to be at my computer at a particular time or day?

This course is facilitated by a Clemson Extension Agent but it is asynchronous - in other words it doesn't matter what time of day you log on because the content is waiting for you and your schedule. Sessions are not scheduled at specific times so students may proceed through the entire course at their leisure. It is recommended that students work through one module per week to keep up with the rest of the class.

What if I don't finish the modules at the end of twelve weeks?

The modules will remain open until **June 15, 2021**. This will allow time to either finish the modules or to go back through course content before taking the final exam.

How will I know I am registered in the course?

A confirmation email will serve as your receipt. Prior to the course a Master Gardener Manual will be shipped to the address provided.

Once registered, how will I get access to the online "classroom"?

The course officially begins on the start date of **March 2, 2021**. A day or two before the course begins, your instructor will email you with detailed directions, including the link to the classroom and step-by-step instructions on how to enroll yourself in the course.

Enrolling is different from registration and requires that you set up a user ID and password within the online classroom. If you haven't received these directions by the day the course begins, please check your spam folder before emailing the instructor.

NOTE: ALL work must be completed in the online classroom. No other work will be accepted.