

MSU Extension Yellowstone County 2025 Master Gardener Course



What is the Master Gardener Program?

Extension Master Gardener programs are networks of land-grant university-trained volunteers, distinguished by a set of National Standards. The MSU Montana Master Gardener Program serves as an education and volunteer service organization. The program's purpose is to provide technical assistance and unbiased, research-based information in consumer horticulture to Montana communities through qualified volunteers.

How can I become a Master Gardener?

The Extension Master Gardener Program consists of eight weekly lessons taught by MSU Extension agents and staff, plant professionals, and Master Gardener volunteers. Upon completion of the course, participants will be expected to pass an open-book exam and fulfill a 20-hour volunteer commitment. After finishing the course lessons, passing the exam, and completing the volunteer requirement, participants will be considered MSU Extension Master Gardeners.

Do I need to become a Master Gardener if I take the class?

No! The class is open to anyone interested in learning more about gardening in Montana with the option to test for certification upon completion of the course.

What does the course cost?

- The course fee is \$125 (\$80 for military/veterans who provide an ID Card) and includes the Master Gardener Course Handbook. The fee can be paid online or by cash/check (payable to MSU Extension) mailed or delivered to 301 N 27th St #330, Billings, MT 59101.

Class Information

- Classes will be held at the MSU Extension office in Yellowstone County on Tuesday evenings beginning March 18, 2025 through May 13, 2025 from 6-8 pm.
- A minimum of 8 participants is required to proceed with the class. Class is limited to 12.
- The registration deadline is March 7. Course fee must be paid before the first class.
- Register online at www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/horticulture/ or use the QR code below. You can also call the Extension office at (406)256-2828, or email Yellowstone County Horticulture Extension Agent, Anthony Sammartano at anthony.sammartano@montana.edu.

What subjects will be covered?

- March 18: What is a Master Gardener? (history, mission, expectations)
Soil Science (soils, nutrients, and fertilizer)
- April 1: Plant Science (plant growth and development)
- April 8: Vegetable Gardening (seed starting, gardening planning)
- April 15: Growing Small Fruit and Fruit Trees
- April 22: Turf Lawns and Alternatives (traditional lawns and planting alternatives)
- April 29: Woody Ornamentals (planting and maintaining trees and shrubs)
- May 6: Introduction to Integrated Pest Management & Diagnostics
- May 13: Herbaceous Perennials (growing and caring for flowers)

