

There is still time to sign up for Master Gardener Classes!

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The Barren County Cooperative Extension Service is offering another Master Gardener program. There are still a few spaces available for those who are interested. Fall classes will meet every Tuesday night from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., beginning August 30th -- November 8th, at the Barren County Cooperative Extension office located at 1463 West Main Street.

The program is open to people of all backgrounds who have an interest in gardening and volunteering. Registration fee for the program is \$75.00 and covers the cost of books and training materials needed for the program. The fee is required by August 22nd in order to reserve a spot in the program.

Master Gardeners are volunteers who want to give back to their communities by sharing their enthusiasm and knowledge about plants and gardening. They are trained paraprofessionals who are part of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension community in consumer horticulture and bring research-based information to citizens throughout Kentucky. Master Gardener volunteers also bring an excitement and energy to teaching in their communities.

To become a Master Gardener, an applicant must complete 60 hours of training on vegetables, home fruits, lawn care, plant pathology, entomology, soils & fertility, pruning, plant propagation, and flowers. The majority of the training is conducted by the University of Kentucky Extension staff and graduates of the program are allowed to keep the Master Gardener manual as a reference.

Once training is completed, Master Gardeners are required to volunteer 30 hours the first year and 15 hours annually thereafter. Volunteer time fits the specific interests and strengths of the Master Gardener with the programming needs of the county residents. It emphasizes practical gardening experience teamed with the research-based information of the University of Kentucky Extension to help people put knowledge to work.

Interested in becoming a Master Gardener? For more information about the Master Gardener Volunteer program, contact Kristin Goodin, program coordinator, by calling the Barren County Extension Service at 270-651-3818 or kristin.goodin@uky.edu.

Educational programs of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability or national origin.