



Program Overview

The [Purdue Master Gardener Program](#) is an integral part of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service and provides the citizens of Indiana a chance to grow. Under the guidance and support of Purdue Extension, selected residents of a county voluntarily begin a training program specifically designed to prepare them to help others grow.

The program provides a learning framework for participants to increase their knowledge on a wide variety of horticultural subjects.

When these volunteers complete the 12- to 16-week training program (one 3-hour class per week) and pass an examination (at least a 70% score), they are then identified by the county and Purdue as Master Gardener Interns. The Master Gardener Interns are expected to complete 35 volunteer service hours, representing the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. They help others grow by sharing knowledge while providing leadership and service in educational gardening activities within their communities, under the guidance of the local Program Coordinator.

When the minimum volunteer commitment has been fulfilled, volunteers are then certified as Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners remain active by completing six hours of educational training and twelve hours of volunteer service per year. Advanced levels of certification are offered to help with recognition and retention of volunteers.

In addition, if you are part of a local community group that would like to have a Master Gardener teach your group about a gardening topic, please e-mail the Extension Educator in Cass County, or call the office at 574-753-7750. Please allow plenty of time to make arrangements.

[Purdue University Consumer Horticulture](#)

[Cass County Master Gardener Application](#)