

Master Gardener Training Begins Feb. 28

Do you enjoy working in your garden and talking with friends about your newest plant acquisition? Do your friends ask you for advice on their lawns, vegetables and flowers? Then you should consider becoming a Master Gardener. You have all the qualifications!

Each year in early spring, when the weather is cold and snowy, a few hardy individuals learn to become better gardeners. They participate in the University of Nebraska- Lincoln Extension Master Gardener program. Master Gardener trainees attend a series of classes and learn about a wide range of horticulture topics including soils, fertilizers, botany, plant selection, plant diseases, insects and weed control, to name a few. Forty hours of classroom instruction gives them a good foundation in general horticulture, plus basic insect and disease control.

After training, Master Gardeners assist UNL Extension staff in providing horticulture information to the residents of their county. Answering questions phoned-in to the Extension Office, diagnosing plant samples and helping maintain community gardens are a few of the ways Master Gardeners benefit their community.

Why do these people get involved? First, because they love gardening. Each Master Gardener has their own special area of interest, one particular type of gardening or type of plant that they love to grow, whether it is roses, herbs, water gardening, wildflowers, fruit trees or vegetables. Master gardeners meet many great people who share their love of gardening and they make a contribution to their community.

How do you become a Master Gardener? Training classes start February 28th for Dodge and surrounding counties at the UNL Extension office in Fremont. Classes will be held every Thursday from 9:00am to 4pm from February 28 th through March 27 th . Cost is \$150.00 per person, which includes 40 hours of classroom training and the Master Gardener manual.

After training, new Master Gardeners are asked to volunteer 40 hours back to their community through a variety of activities. Are you interested in becoming a Master Gardener? Everyone is welcome so please join us!