

HOW CAN I BECOME A MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER?

The Master Gardener training program is usually conducted every two years. The training occurs during the day, once a week for 15 weeks. In filling out this interest flyer you will automatically be contacted during the summer, prior to the next training that fall. An application will be mailed to you. Upon our receiving it, we will set up an interview with you. Those applicants who are accepted will be notified by September to begin classes October of that training year. There is a fee to cover the cost of the training and materials needed.

HOW WILL THE MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM BENEFIT ME?

Through the Master Gardener training sessions and workshops you will become a more knowledgeable gardener. Some of the course work in the trainings include instruction in insect and disease prevention, soil nutrition, vegetable, fruit, tree, shrub, lawn, annual, perennial and houseplant culture to name just a few! You will also meet people who share your love of gardening. As a bonus, the program benefits include:

- ◆ Free registration to CCE-OC Community Horticulture programs as part of your advanced training.
- ◆ The opportunity to attend educational field trips and the NYS Master Gardener Conference at Cornell University in Ithaca.
- ◆ Receiving 'Gardening in Orange County,' the Community Horticulture newsletter.
- ◆ Tax deductible travel expenses.



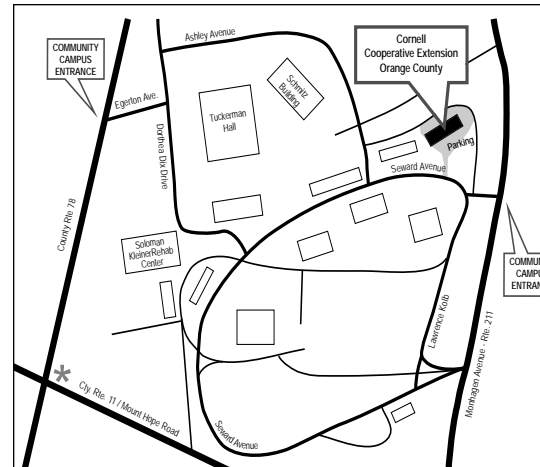
Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Orange County

Community Campus, 18 Seward Ave., Suite 300
Middletown, NY 10940-1919
845-344-1234 www.cce.cornell.edu/orange

Cornell University Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities.



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Directions to Cornell Cooperative Extension

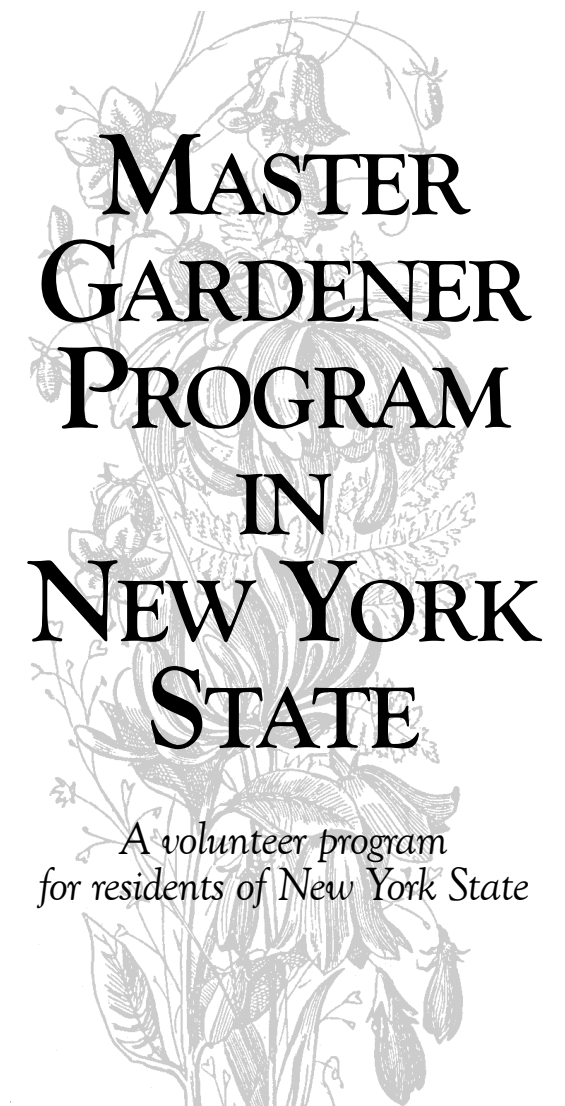
From Route 84: Exit 3 West onto 17M, at 2nd traffic light make left onto County Route 78 (the former Wiedy's Furniture is on the corner). Stay on County Route 78 through 2 lights to entrance to Community Campus on the right.

*Make right onto campus at Egerton Ave., left onto Dorothea Dix Drive, then first right onto Ashley Avenue. Follow road until it comes to a "T" - make left onto Seward Avenue. Drive approximately 500 ft. and turn left into parking lot for 18 Seward Ave. (You will see Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County listed on the sign. Enter through front door; use elevator or stairs to our offices on the third floor.)

From Route 17W: Exit 123 onto 17M for 5.7 miles, left onto County Route 78 (the former Wiedy's Furniture is on the corner). Stay on County Route 78 through 2 lights to entrance to Community Campus on the right. *See above.

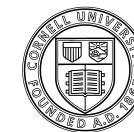
From Route 17E: Exit 120 to Route 211 West. Go 2.9 miles and turn right onto Monhagen Avenue. Follow directions from Route 211 (see below).

From Route 211 West: Turn right at light onto Monhagen Avenue (continuation of Route 211 West). Make 3rd left-hand turn onto Community Campus (Gino's Deli is on the right). Bear right onto Seward Avenue and make immediate right turn into parking lot for 18 Seward Ave. (You will see Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County listed on the sign. Enter through front door; use elevator or stairs to our offices on the third floor.)



MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM IN NEW YORK STATE

*A volunteer program
for residents of New York State*



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MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER INTEREST FORM

If you would like an application for the MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM mailed to you, complete and mail this portion to:

Debbie Lester
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Orange County
Community Campus
18 Seward Ave., Suite 300
Middletown, NY 10940-1919

Name

Address

City

County

State

Zip





Daytime Phone Number

E-mail








Do you have any:

- Volunteer experience?
- Informal training or experience in horticulture?
- Experience in public speaking, teaching or community organization

WHAT IS THE MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM?

-  An integral component of a county's outreach program in educating:
 - ◆ home gardeners.
 - ◆ residents of nursing homes.
 - ◆ youth at schools.
 - ◆ youth in after-school programs.
 - ◆ physically and mentally challenged.
 - ◆ community gardeners.
 - ◆ consumers of horticultural products.
-  Neighbors teaching neighbors about landscaping, vegetables, fruits, herbs, houseplants, beneficial and harmful insects, diseases, integrated pest management, wildlife management, soils, birds, composting, water conservation and much more.
-  A corps of volunteers in New York State who are trained by Cornell Cooperative Extension in the science and art of gardening.
-  A nationwide educational program.

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS TO BECOME A MASTER GARDENER?

-  Basic interest and knowledge about landscape and food gardening.
-  Enthusiasm for acquiring and sharing horticultural knowledge and skills.
-  Interest in teaching others.
-  Ability to communicate ~ written and verbally.
-  Understanding of Cornell Cooperative Extension's educational mission.
-  Flexible time schedule to allow participation in the program.
-  Willingness to volunteer time on horticultural projects and functions to help meet the goals of the county's Cornell Cooperative Extension Program.

WHAT DO MASTER GARDENERS DO IN NEW YORK STATE?

Projects and functions carried out by Master Gardeners are based on the educational priorities of individual counties, differing from county to county.

Some of the ways in which Master Gardeners have been involved in New York State are:

- ◆ Answering horticultural inquiries on the telephone.
- ◆ Researching and answering letters, writing articles about gardening, and setting up demonstration projects in public places.
- ◆ School and community gardens.
- ◆ Community improvement projects.
- ◆ Historic garden restoration.
- ◆ Horticultural therapy.
- ◆ Organizing plant sales.
- ◆ Organizing public events.
- ◆ County fair informational booths.
- ◆ Providing advice to customers at garden centers.
- ◆ Increasing awareness of integrated pest management, water quality conservation and other environmental issues.



Your Local County Contact: Debbie Lester at 845-344-1234