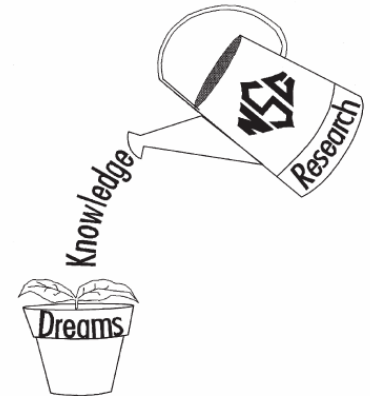


Rockingham County Center
525 Hwy 65
Reidsville, North Carolina 27320
Phone: (336) 342-8230
Fax: (336) 342-8242
<http://rockingham.ces.ncsu.edu>

Memo

To: Prospective Master Gardener Volunteers
From: Kathryn Holmes,
Extension Agent, Agriculture - Horticulture
Date: September 21, 2009
Subject: Master Gardener Training



Thank you for expressing an interest in **Extension's Master Gardener Program!** If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at **336-342-8230**.

The first step in becoming an MG is **Master Gardener Training**. This 15 class course provides you with a thorough background in all the basics of growing vegetables, fruits, lawns, and ornamentals in our area with a special emphasis on protecting our environment. Training for 2010 is scheduled to take place between **January 13 and April 28**— a complete schedule will soon be available. During this time, classes will meet most **Wednesday mornings** from **9:00 am to 12:00 pm** at the **Extension Office in Reidsville** as well as a few in **Yanceyville**. The cost of training is \$100.00, which provides an extensive manual, name badge, training materials and refreshments. The **training fee** is **due** before the first day of class. (Due by **December 17, 2009**)

At the completion of the training course an **open book exam** is given to test your knowledge. The exam is designed to test your ability to find the right information, not how much you remember. Attending classes and completing homework assignments will prepare you to pass the test. Because we cover so much material in each class, attendance is very important. Trainees are allowed to miss up to **two classes** and still take the test. If you already know you will have to miss more than two classes during the training period please contact me to discuss options.

Within one year of completing training, all new MG's are required to complete a **40 hour volunteer internship**. Volunteering is a fun way to learn more, get to know your fellow MG's, and give back to the community. Volunteer opportunities exist throughout the county. We will work together to determine which volunteer opportunities will make the best use of your time, talents, and interests and meet the needs of Cooperative Extension's educational programs. Some examples of volunteer opportunities include:

- Helping to establish and maintain **teaching gardens**.
- Working with **youth** in schools or 4-H clubs

- Answering home owner **questions** at plant clinics and events
- Assisting with **fund raisers** such as plant sales
- Making **presentations** to local groups
- Staffing **educational booths** or exhibits at events and festivals

In addition to volunteering, MG's are provided with local, regional and statewide **advanced training opportunities** such as classes, workshops, conferences, and field trips.

If you would like to become a Master Gardener, please fill out an application form and return it to me by **Tuesday, December 1, 2009**. Filling in as much information as possible on the application will help me to know more about you, to ensure your needs are met during training and volunteering. I am especially interested in knowing about your interests and skills you feel would benefit the program. **Completed forms should be sent to:**

Kathryn Holmes
 Rockingham County Extension
 525 NC Hwy 65, Suite 200
 Reidsville, NC 27320

If you use **email** regularly, please drop me a note and let me know your application is on the way (kathryn_holmes@ncsu.edu). Receipt of your application and acceptance into the program will be acknowledged by phone by **December 10, 2009**. The training fee will be due by **December 17, 2009**.

Persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency may request accommodations to participate by contacting Kathryn Holmes, Horticulture Extension Agent, at 336-342-8230 or email to kathryn_holmes@ncsu.edu or fax to 336-342-8242 or in person at the County Extension Office at least 14 days prior to the first day of training.

To find out more about NC Cooperative Extension or Extension's Master Gardener Program, visit the following websites:

- **North Carolina Cooperative Extension** – Your information source!
 - <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu>
- **NC Cooperative Extension's MG Program:**
 - <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/masgar/>
- **Rockingham and Caswell County Cooperative Extension** – Find local information and events
 - <http://rockingham.ces.ncsu.edu>
 - <http://caswell.ces.ncsu.edu>

North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation.