

Kentucky Extension Master Gardener Program 2026

 Cooperative
Extension Service



Kentucky Extension
Master Gardener

Mary Dossett

Mary Dossett,
Horticulture Agent

WHERE? DATES? TIME?

Classes are held at the
McCracken County Cooperative Extension Service
August 7th—October 30th from 11:00a.m. to 12:30p.m.

What does the program require?

- 1) a one-time **registration fee** to cover materials used and given in class.
- 2) Submitting information for **background check**.
- 3) Reading assignments and homework questions covering key ideas in horticulture.
- 4) Volunteer hours of 40 the first year, then 30 each year thereafter.
- 5) Written exam.

What does the program provide?

The Master Gardener training program provides more than 40 hours of classroom and hands-on instruction in horticulture and related areas.

Class instructors include Extension specialists, agents and other guest speakers.

Class topics include:

Botany
Entomology
Plant Pathology
Soils and Fertility
Volunteering
Pesticide use and safety

Plus sections from:

Annuals and Perennials
Fruit Production
Tree and Shrub Care
Landscape Design
Lawn Care
Native Plants

HOW DO I ENROLL?

By calling (270) 554-9520

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

WHAT IS THE MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM?

The Extension Master Gardener program provides horticulture training in exchange for volunteer work. The program is a great way to gain horticultural knowledge and share your expertise in your community.

You will meet other gardeners, share gardening experiences, get connected to community, and be associated with a well-respected national program.

The Extension Master Gardener program is offered through local Cooperative Extension Service offices. Cooperative Extension is an outreach unit of Kentucky's Land-Grant universities—the University of Kentucky and Kentucky State University.

The Cooperative Extension Service and Extension Master Gardeners use and provide research-based recommendations to clients.

2026 Master Gardener Training Schedule

Orientation / Weed Management
Botany / MG Plant Swap
Plant ID / Plant Propagation
Home Fruit
Woody Ornamentals
Pesticides and Safety / IPM
Entomology
Plant Pathology
Annual and Perennial Flowers
Soils and Fertility
Vegetables and Composting
VPM / Wildlife
Lawn Care
Review and Final Exam



McCracken County Master Gardener Association

Once you've enrolled in Master Gardener training you may choose to join the *McCracken County Master Gardener Association*.

Association members share gardening knowledge, present and attend educational seminars, tour gardens & horticulture businesses and work together on volunteer projects.

Master Gardeners meet at 6:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

Annual dues are \$15.00, payable January 1st–March 30th.

While training to become a Master Gardener, you are welcome to sit in the monthly meetings to see if you are interested in joining the association.

Commonly Ask Questions

What qualifications do I need to become a McCracken County Master Gardener Association member?

You would need to be someone who:

Loves gardening!

Wants to help and teach others.

Likes to give back to the community.

Completes the Master Gardener Class.

Completes the yearly volunteer hour requirements.

And likes to have a lot of fun!

HOW DO I ENROLL IN THE MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM?

By calling the McCracken County Cooperative Extension Service
2025 New Holt Road
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 554-9520

If you have additional questions ask for Mary Dossett, Agent for Horticulture.