

# Kentucky Extension Master Gardener Program 2026



Kentucky Extension  
Master Gardener

*Mary Dossett*

Mary Dossett,  
Horticulture Agent

## WHERE? DATES? TIME?

Classes are held at the  
**McCracken County Cooperative Extension Service**  
Dates and Time TBD

### 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.**