

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Master Gardener Program Offered

University of Maryland Extension Garrett County office is offering a Master Gardener training program. The mission of this program is to educate Maryland residents about safe, effective, and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities. Integrated pest management is emphasized. This environmental approach reduces fertilizer and pesticide use, resulting in improved soil and water quality. Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who become representatives of the University of Maryland and agree to work in their communities to teach Marylanders how to cultivate garden spaces and manage landscapes sustainably through research based information.

A Master Gardener course is being offered in the spring of 2010 at Garrett College. The purpose of this course is to train volunteer educators to extend the services, programs, and expertise of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to the general public. Students will become certified Master Gardeners after successfully completing the class and subsequently completing 40 hours of volunteer work. Volunteer work involves a wide range of activities which promote the Master Gardener mission and may include education programs, therapeutic horticulture, youth gardening programs, plant clinics, and demonstration gardens.

The Master Gardener training course (14 sessions) will be held from April 6 to May 20 at the McHenry Campus of Garrett College from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Interested persons should call the Continuing Education & Workforce Development Division of Garrett College at 301-387-3069 to register. The cost is \$130. Students will receive a Master Gardener Handbook and activity supplies. The last day to sign up is April 1st and a minimum number of students is needed to run the class.

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