

Colorado Master Gardenersm Program
Colorado Gardener Certificate Training
Cooperative Extension
Colorado State University



Putting Knowledge to Work

Colorado Master Gardenersm Program
Colorado Gardener Certificate Training

2006 Application and Training Information

Thank you for your interest in the *Colorado Master Gardener Program* (CMG) and *Colorado Gardener Certificate Training*. Enclosed is information about the two programs and application materials.

Application deadline in the Golden Plains Area is November 18, 2005.

Send application to: Joanne Jones
Colorado State University Cooperative Extension
Golden Plains Area
181 Birch Avenue
Akron CO 80720

Training locations:

Washington County Cooperative Extension
181 Birch Avenue
Akron CO

Larimer County Ranch (Events Center)
5280 Arena Circle Suite 100
Loveland CO

Training dates:

Saturday, January 21, 2006 - Akron
CMG Overview and Diagnostics
Saturday, January 28 – Akron
Botany
Saturday, February 4 – Akron
Soils
Friday, February 10 – Loveland
Pathology
Friday, February 17 – Loveland
Entomology

Saturday, February 25 – Akron
Pruning and Insect ID
Friday, March 3 – Loveland
Turf
Saturday, March 11 – Akron
Irrigation Management & Water Wise Gardening
Saturday, March 18 – Akron
Local Program and CMG Orientation
Saturday, March 25 – Akron
Tree Selection & Planting and Diagnosing Tree Disorders

For additional information, contact:

Kit Carson County Cooperative Extension Office – 719-346-5571
Morgan County Cooperative Extension Office – 970-542-3540
Phillips County Cooperative Extension Office – 970-854-3616
Sedgwick County Cooperative Extension Office – 970-474-3479
Washington County Cooperative Extension Office – 970-345-2287
Yuma County Cooperative Extension Office – 970-332-4151
Joanne Jones, Extension Horticulturist – 970-768-2761 (cell)

The Colorado Master Gardener Program

Colorado Master Gardener, CMG, volunteers assist the county office of CSU Cooperative Extension to extend knowledge-based information on home yard care and gardening into the community. *Colorado Master Gardeners* are involved in a wide variety of ways, including assisting with office phone calls and walk-in customers, staffing information booths and diagnostic clinics, writing for local newspapers, and mentoring youth groups and community gardening and greening projects.

Colorado Master Gardeners enjoy sharing gardening knowledge and networking with other garden enthusiasts.

The title "*Colorado Master Gardener*" is a registered service mark of Colorado State University Cooperative Extension. It may be used only in conjunction with official CSU Cooperative Extension activities. It may not be used to infer credentials or otherwise imply endorsement of a private business. It may not be used on marketing materials of business.

For additional background on the CMG program, refer to the web site at www.cmg.colostate.edu.

To become a "*Colorado Master Gardener*" participants must:

1. Apply to and be accepted into a county/area CMG program.
2. Training: Satisfactorily complete the CMG training course (i.e., pass exams and attend at least 80% of the class sessions). Participants are expected to attend all training sessions. However, that is not always possible due to illness, family emergencies, and weather-related travel issues. When missing a class, the student is responsible for the content and exams, and should make-up the training to the extent possible.

3. Volunteer service: Continue the learning experience with 50 hours minimum return volunteer service in the county CMG program.

Individuals who fail to complete the volunteer work by September 30th will be billed \$10 for each uncompleted hour, up to a maximum of \$300.

After the training year, 24 hours minimum volunteer service is required to continue in the program.

4. Turn in reports.

CMG Training

In the Golden Plains Area, training is held on Friday or Saturday for 10 weeks, beginning January 21, 2006.

Class periods are 6-hours per day, 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1p.m. to 4 p.m. Classes are taught by CSU Cooperative Extension campus-based and county-based faculty. Class information is focused toward the non-commercial, home gardener. Topics include the following:

- Colorado Master Gardener Program, Overview
- Plant growth and plant identification
- Soils, soil amendments, and fertilizers
- Entomology (insects)
- Insect ID
- Plant pathology (plant diseases)
- Lawn care
- Pruning
- Selection and planting trees and shrubs
- Diagnosing tree disorders
- Irrigation management and water-wise gardening
- CMG orientation

- Other topics (such as, herbaceous plants, vegetables, small fruits, tree fruits, native plants, and weed management) may be added locally.

CMG Application Process

CMG programs operate at the county level, with primary support from the county government. Applicants should generally apply to their home county. In special situations (such as the work location versus the home location) a potential volunteer may apply to a neighboring county. However, it should be understood that most counties give priority to county residents, being responsive to the local county budget and taxpayers. Applicants who apply to multiple counties will not be considered.

The program requires that the volunteer work be completed for the county/area program for which the applicant applied. For example, an application to the Boulder County CMG program necessitates that the volunteer work be completed FOR the Boulder County CMG program. An application to the Gilpin County CMG Program necessitates that the work volunteer work be completed FOR the Gilpin County CMG Program. Neighboring counties (like Boulder, Broomfield, and Gilpin) often collaborate on CMG outreach efforts.

Since the applicant needs county specific information regarding the CMG program, CMG applications are NOT available on the web. Contact your local CSU Cooperative Extension office.

Cooperative Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. Selection is not based on race, age, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status, disability or handicap.

Students requesting handicap accommodations should directly contact the *CSU Resources of Disabled Students Office* at 970-491-6385.

Steps in the CMG application process

1. **Contact your county office of CSU Cooperative Extension** for program information and application form.
2. **Submit a completed CMG application form** by the application deadline. The application form asks for the following items:
 - Background information on gardening
 - Background information on volunteer experiences
 - General availability for volunteer work (used by program coordinators to help connect CMG volunteer with projects)
 - Interest in CMG projects
 - Criminal background information (if applicable)
 - Contact information for three references

The application includes a signed contract committing the CMG volunteer to 50 hours minimum volunteer work in exchange for the training. Some counties also require a criminal background check of potential volunteers.

3. **Preliminary screening** will be off the application form. Primary consideration is based on 1) interest in volunteer work, 2) availability for volunteer work, 3) people skills (i.e., ability to assist Cooperative Extension in home horticulture educational efforts) and 4) gardening experience.

The *Colorado Gardener Certificate* option (to participate in the class for a higher fee without any volunteer commitment) provides educational opportunities for those not interested in or available for volunteer work.

Without fundamental gardening experience,

it is unreasonable to expect that someone will develop the background and knowledge base required to work with our clientele by just attending the training.

Staff will send a confidential reference letter to the references listed on the application. At least two must be returned before the applicant can be accepted into the CMG program.

4. **Interview** – Most counties will invite applicants in for an informal interview giving the applicant a chance to learn more about the CMG Program and ask questions about training and volunteer work. Some counties include a written exam in the application process.
5. **Applicants will be advised if they were selected for the CMG Program.** In counties with a larger population base, significantly more people apply than can be accommodated. Applicants who are not selected as CMG volunteers, may elect to enroll as *Colorado Gardener Certificate Students* (non-volunteer enrollments).
6. **Pay program fees** – If accepted into a local CMG Program, payment of program fees is the final enrollment step.

Correctly stated, interested individuals apply to become a CMG volunteer representing CSU Cooperative Extension. The decision to accept or not accept any individual as a CMG volunteers is the right of CSU Cooperative Extension. Reasons why an individual was or was not selected may or may not be given.

Additionally, CMG volunteers serve at the request of Colorado State University Cooperative Extension. This request can be withdrawn at any time for any reason or no reason.

Fees

Program fees in the Golden Plains Area are \$240.

Program fees include the CMG Reference Books (CSUCE home garden related fact sheets, CMG fact sheets and other training materials), other handouts and worksheets, instructor's travel expense, lab supplies, program development fees, and other local program delivery costs.

Scholarships are available for individuals on limited incomes. Refer to the CMG application form for details.

Do **not** send fees with the application. If you are selected for the program, you will be billed. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required upon acceptance. The remainder of fees must be paid at least 14 days prior to the starting of class or enrollment will be canceled.

Colorado Gardener Certificate Training

Individuals interested in the CMG training without a volunteer commitment may enroll for the coursework under the *Colorado Gardener Certificate, CGC*, training option. The course work is available for a higher fee in-lieu-of the return service.

Upon completion of the course CGC students receive the *Colorado Gardener Certificate*. However, without the volunteer commitment, participants do not become *Colorado Master Gardeners*.

To receive the *Colorado Gardener Certificate*, students must satisfactorily complete the CMG training (i.e., pass exams and attend at least 80% of the class sessions). Participants are expected to attend all training sessions. However, that is not always possible due to illness, family emergencies, and weather-related travel issues. When missing a class, the student is responsible for the content and exams, and should make-up the training to the extent possible.

The *Colorado Gardener Certificate* may be displayed in a place of business and used in business marketing. The *Colorado Gardener Certificate* is also available to CMG volunteers upon completion of the class and 50 hours minimum volunteer commitment.

Individuals who were not selected for the CMG volunteer program, may enroll in the Colorado Gardener Certificate Training.

Fees

Cost for the Colorado Gardener Certificate training is \$300 *tuition* PLUS program fees of \$240 for a total of \$540.

CGC Enrollment

To enroll in the *Colorado Gardener Certificate* training, send in the completed first page of the application form (only) with the tuition and program fees. In some locations space is limited and on a first come (paying) basis.