

Home Horticulture Training 2021

Frequently Asked Questions

Washington State University Extension has adapted, and we are excited to offer **Home Horticulture Training** (HH Training) statewide via the online webinar platform, Zoom. Classes will be 100% online with access to the WSU Master Gardener Online Training manual and modules via WSU Global Campus. Training will be taught by WSU faculty and staff, and regional experts.

Who can take HH training?

Washington State Residents 18 years and older are welcome. You **do not** need any gardening experience, just a willingness to learn. HH Training is suitable for those new to the Pacific Northwest who want to gain local horticulture knowledge, or established gardeners wanting to increase knowledge. Some Saturday sessions will be divided into two different online lectures, one for Eastern Washington residents and one for Western Washington residents.

HH Training; What is it?

HH Training is a comprehensive home horticulture training that will build skills and knowledge so that you can have confidence in your own gardening ability and learn to implement sustainable practices. We will cover botany, soils, weeds, plant nomenclature, growing vegetables, trees and shrubs, lawns, native plants, pests and more. Natural resource stewardship is part of gardening. A complete list of Topics & Instructors is on the HH webpage at: <http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/home-horticulture-training/>

How will training be offered?

Online lectures will be three hours on Saturday mornings using Zoom. Preparation will take approximately 3-5 hours of homework including reading chapters from WSU's comprehensive Master Gardener Manual and other publications; watching recorded PowerPoint presentations and videos; doing online exercises; and taking online quizzes and exams all using WSU's learning management system, Blackboard. Please note that all these materials are electronic. If you want to have hard copies, you will have to print them out on your own home printer. Hard copies are not required.

What is Blackboard?

Blackboard is a learning management system (LMS). The asynchronous, online course work and curriculum will be delivered via the Blackboard Virtual Classroom. You will receive instructions on how to use it upon registration.

When are the Zoom Lectures?

Lectures will be online using Zoom Webinar on Saturday mornings, 9 AM - 12 PM from January 9 through April 24, 2021 (no class on April 3). You must have a free Zoom account to access the Zoom Webinar. A free account is available at: <https://zoom.us/freesignup/>.

You must register in advance to have access to the Zoom Webinar sessions on Saturday mornings. Instructions for how to register for the Zoom Webinars will be emailed after you pay for the course.

Is this a credit or certificate course?

This is a WSU Extension non-credit course that offers the opportunity to earn a Home Horticulture Certificate of Completion. To earn the certificate, participants are expected to attend all Saturday sessions, complete weekly open-book quizzes with a minimum 80 percent average and complete the open-book final with a minimum of 80 percent. All coursework must be completed by June 1, 2021.

What if I cannot attend all the sessions?

Two unexcused absences are permitted. For excused absences, please contact your [local county program](#). Staff in the local county has final authority on awarding the certificates and will be providing them to you.

Will the Saturday morning sessions be recorded for later viewing?

No, we cannot offer this option because of copyright and technical issues.

What about the course materials? Do I get to keep those?

You will have access to the materials from December 15, 2020 – June 1, 2021 via Blackboard. Blackboard includes the Master Gardener Manual, and other supporting content and resources. Before training is over, your county WSU Extension office will mail you a flash drive containing most of the materials. However, the flash drive will not include the Master Gardener Manual because of copyright issues. You may legally download one copy of it to your computer from Blackboard and/or privately print it on your own printer to keep permanently. Or you may order a hard copy of the manual from the [WSU Extension Publication Store](#).

Is there technical support?

Tech support will be provided by WSU and by your local county Extension Office. Please be certain you have the technology required to be successful in taking this course. A list of “Requirements” can be found at <http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/home-horticulture-training/>.

What is needed for the course?

Zoom account, E-mail account, Internet access, and a computer that meets these requirements: <https://online.wsu.edu/techready/equipment-requirements/>

How do I register?

The registration process requires two distinct steps. First, students will register and pay to gain access to Blackboard and to receive information about the Saturday morning Zoom Webinar sessions. Second, students will need to register for the Zoom webinars by following the link provided in the Welcome to Home Horticulture email that students will receive upon receipt of payment.

Registration will be online only beginning November 14, 2020 at:

<http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/home-horticulture-training/>

What is the registration Deadline?

December 18, 2020, unless the course fills before then.

What is the cost of the training?

\$300 for the 15-week course. Fees are non-refundable.

How do I pay?

Payment is via VISA or MasterCard only at the time of registration. If you do not have a credit card you can purchase and use a Visa gift card for payment.

Is there financial assistance?

Contact your [local county WSU Extension office](#) to learn about the potential for financial assistance.

What if Home Horticulture Training is not offered by my county?

Not all counties will be able to offer this training. If the county you reside in is not offering Home Horticulture, please feel free to register in a neighboring county.

Is this the same as WSU Extension Master Gardener Training?

No. Although Home Horticulture training does use the online WSU Extension Master Gardener training via Blackboard. Becoming a WSU Extension Master Gardener volunteer requires additional in-depth, county-specific training that is hands-on and experiential.

Can this training be used toward becoming a Master Gardener?

Check with your local county Extension Office. WSU Extension Master Gardener volunteer training requires in-person training that is not possible under current COVID-19 restrictions. However, as the COVID-19 restrictions begin to lift, some county WSU Extension Master Gardener programs are looking at the possibility of using the 2021 Home Horticulture Training as a steppingstone to becoming a WSU Extension Master Gardener volunteer in 2021 or in 2022. Check with your [local Extension office](#) for more details.

How much time will I need for this course?

Plan to set aside 6-10 hours per week to attend the Saturday morning Zoom Webinars and complete the asynchronous coursework.

Extension programs and policies are consistent with federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, sex, religion, age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin; physical, mental or sensory disability; marital status, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era or disabled veteran. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodation need to contact Jennifer Marquis at 400 Washington St., Wenatchee, WA or 509 667-6540 or jgmarquis@wsu.edu at least three weeks prior to the start of the event.