

Sign Up Now for the Purdue Master Gardener Program

If you want to sharpen your gardening skills and you have an interest in sharing your knowledge with others, Purdue Extension has the ideal program for you.

Beginning August 24th, a Purdue Master Gardener Program training series will be offered for residents of Putnam County and surrounding areas. The Purdue Master Gardener Program is a volunteer training program that provides a learning framework for participants to increase their knowledge on a wide variety of horticultural subjects.

Training will be held on Monday nights from 6:00-9:00 PM at the Putnam County Extension Office (152 East Columbia St., Greencastle). The final class will be on November 23rd. Participants will be exposed to a wide range of subjects including soil and plant science, diagnosis of plant problems, and culture of vegetable, flower, landscape, and fruit plants.

Materials and expenses for the series of classes cost \$ 115 per participant. There is an additional cost of \$40 for a second family member, if a second family member would like to participate in the class and would like to share the reference notebook. The fee for the class covers such items as a reference notebook, mailings, and name badges. These materials all become part of the Master Gardener's personal collection.

Once you complete the course, you have the opportunity to join the Putnam County Master Gardener Association which does numerous activities throughout the year. While the class will be encouraged to create new educational outreach programs, there are already plenty of opportunities for which volunteers are needed as a member of the association.

To learn more about becoming a Master Gardener and to speak with members of the local association, please stop by Harris Hall during the Putnam County 4-H Fair. Members of the association will be at Harris Hall organizing and answering questions about the various exhibits in Harris Hall. The Harris Hall Horticulture Building is open daily during the Putnam County Fair to allow fair visitors to see the various agricultural and horticultural exhibits displayed by residents of Putnam County, Putnam County Home Extension Club Members, Putnam County Master Gardener Members, and even 4-H Members. The agricultural exhibits that can be entered include hay, honey, maple syrup, tallest corn, sunflowers, and soybean plants. Horticultural exhibits range from single cut flowers, vegetables, container gardens, herbs, and artistic flower arrangements. You can contact the Putnam County Extension Office for more information about entering an item in Harris Hall.

If you'd like an application to join our league of volunteers or have questions about the Purdue Master Gardener Program, give us a call at the Purdue Extension Office by calling

765.653.8411 or email Jenna Nees at smith535@purdue.edu. Please register early to ensure your spot in this course. Registration deadline is August 12th.

Visit our homepage at www.extension.purdue.edu/putnam or you can contact the local Purdue Extension Office by calling 765.653.8411 for more information regarding this week's column topic or to RSVP for upcoming events. It is always best to call first to assure items are ready when you arrive and to RSVP for programs. While many publications are free, some do have a fee. Purdue University is an equal access/equal opportunity institution. All times listed are Eastern Time.

Upcoming Events:

July 14 - Arranging Gardening Flowers, Library, 6 pm

July 17-July 25 - Putnam County 4-H Fair

July 28 - Container Gardening, Library, 6 pm

August 7 - August 23 - Indiana State Fair