

Dear Gardening Enthusiast,

Thank you for your interest in the Purdue Extension Master Gardener (EMG) Program in Noble and Whitley Counties. Past participants indicated the class was a great experience. We hope you'll count it a valuable and fulfilling life experience as well.

Financial Cost

The cost of the 2024 Basic Training class for an individual is \$175. Couples in the same household sharing the Master Gardener manual may attend for \$270. (*The first registration will appear as \$175, with the sharing individual attending for an additional \$95.*) This fee covers supplies, classroom expenses, and name badges. You will receive resources including a Master Gardener student manual (over 600 pages).

Volunteer Requirement

Volunteer hours are part of the expectation to become a Master Gardener. Volunteer hours focus on educational plant-related projects that teach others, thereby fulfilling the Master Gardener motto of *"Helping Others Grow."* Those who take the class and pass the final exam are considered 'interns' until 40 volunteer hours have been completed within two years.

Schedule

The orientation class is Wednesday, September 4, from 1–4 p.m. After orientation, regular classes will be held *Monday* afternoons, beginning Sept. 9, from 1- 4 p.m. (see enclosed *preliminary schedule*).

Classes for the bi-county training will be held at the Noble County South Complex (2090 N State Rd. 9, Albion) for the Sep. 4 - Oct. 14 dates and in Whitley County (Columbia City) for the Oct. 21 - Dec. 9 dates.



PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Scholarship from Whitley County Master Gardeners Association

If you plan to volunteer your first 40 hours in Whitley County upon passing the class and becoming an intern, we invite you to complete the scholarship application. Whitley County Master Gardeners Association will select up to 5 scholarship winners. The award will cover the class fee for an individual (\$175). The scholarship application will be due with the Extension Master Gardener Application and Agreement Form in the Extension office by Aug. 15.

Please plan ahead! Complete tasks *before* deadlines if possible!

- **By August 15 (if applying for a Whitley County scholarship):**
 - Read the “Purdue Master Gardener Program Policy Guide.”
<https://extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/mg/mg-5-w.pdf>
 - Fill out and submit the “Volunteer Application and Agreement” form. Please submit in person, if possible, as a driver’s license check is part of the process
 - Fill out and submit the “Whitley County Master Gardener Association Scholarship Application”
- **By August 21:**
 - Read the “Purdue Master Gardener Program Policy Guide.”
<https://extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/mg/mg-5-w.pdf>
 - Fill out and submit the “Volunteer Application and Agreement” form. Please submit in person, if possible, as a driver’s license check is part of the process.
- **By Aug. 28:**
 - Once a preliminary screening is complete and you are accepted into the program you will receive enrollment instructions.
 - Enroll and pay online through "Cvent." Payment via credit card is preferred, but a check may be sent to Purdue University to arrive prior to Aug. 28 (details explained in the online enrollment).
 - If you are a scholarship recipient, you'll still need to register in Cvent, but you will receive further instructions, as the fee will be taken care of by the scholarship.
- **Sept. 4:** Orientation class in Albion

We welcome questions and look forward to helping you become an Extension Master Gardener!

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Enclosures:

1. Preliminary Master Gardener Basic Training Class Schedule
2. Purdue Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Application and Agreement (Form EMG-1), <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/whitley/docs/emg-1-volunteer-application-and-agreement.pdf>
3. Purdue Master Gardener Program Policy Guide (MG-5-W),
<https://extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/mg/mg-5-w.pdf>
4. Whitley County Master Gardener Association Scholarship Application
<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/whitley/docs/whitleyemg-scholarships.pdf>