

Dear Prospective Purdue Extension Master Gardener:

Thank you for your interest in the Purdue Extension Master Gardener (EMG) Statewide Basic Training. Our main objective is to train volunteers to assist Purdue Extension with home horticulture education in local communities. Purdue EMG's receive training in horticulture to equip them to fulfill this educational role through volunteering in a variety of projects approved by their local EMG County Coordinator (Purdue Extension Educator).

The requirements for Purdue EMG certification include acceptance into the training through an application and screening process, payment of registration fee, completion of the EMG Basic Training which includes passing the open-book final exam with a score of 70% or higher, and contributing at least 40 hours of volunteer service approved by the local EMG County Coordinator within two years. Purdue Extension Master Gardeners must complete 12 volunteer and 6 continuing education hours annually to stay active.

Program Information

For Spring 2025, there will be a Statewide Virtual Purdue EMG Basic Training from February 4 – May 6 (with completion of final exam after May 6). The statewide live webinars will be held Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. The northeast Indiana local sessions will be on Mondays from 6:30-8:30 pm twice per month. See local schedule details.

Application and Registration Information (Two-Step Process to participate)Step 1: Application approval by local EMG County Coordinator

Please read the Purdue EMG Program Policy Guide and complete, sign, and return the Purdue EMG Volunteer Application and Agreement (Form EMG-1) to Allen, LaGrange, Noble, or Whitley county offices.

Policy Guide: extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/mg/mg-5-w.pdf

Application: extension.purdue.edu/county/whitley/docs/emg-1-volunteer-application-and-agreement.pdf

Applicants are required to show evidence of a government issued photo ID prior to application approval, which may be done through a virtual or in-person appointment with the Extension office.

Application deadline: January 13, 2025Step 2: Registration and payment of fees through online registration portal

Upon approval of your application and confirmation of a government issued photo ID, an online registration link will be sent to you. The registration options are listed below:

- \$185.00 for an individual registration; includes a print version of the Purdue EMG Manual
- \$290.00 for two people sharing the Purdue EMG Manual (*works best for people living in the same household*)
- Participants can add a digital version of the manual for an additional \$25.00

Once payment is confirmed, a copy of the Purdue EMG Manual will be shipped to you prior to the start of the training.

Refund Policy

Cancellation prior to January 21, 2025 incurs a charge of 12% of registration fee + \$5.00. After January 21, 2025, no refunds will be issued. Purdue University is not responsible for expenses incurred due to cancellations by registrants and reserves the right to cancel. Full refunds are issued in the event that Purdue University cancels the program.

Statewide Live Webinar Schedule

February 4	Purdue EMG Orientation	March 25	Insect ID and Control
February 11	Plant Science	April 1	Pesticide Safety & Alternatives
February 18	Soils and Plant Nutrition	April 8	Herbaceous Ornamentals
February 25	Herbaceous Ornamentals	April 15	Woody Ornamentals
March 4	Plant Disease Diagnosis	April 22	Fruit Gardening
March 11	Weed ID and Control	April 29	Lawn Care
March 18	Animal Pests	May 7	Vegetable Gardening

Local Schedule

February 10	Local Orientation (virtual)
February 24	Plant Science, Soils, Rain Gardens (Noble Co. Public Library, Albion)
March 17	Diseases & Weeds (Chain O'Lakes State Park, Albion)
March 31	Animal & Insect Pests (Maple Wood Nature Center, LaGrange)
April 14	Pesticides, Herbaceous Ornamentals (Avia Gardens, Avilla)
April 28	Woody Ornamentals & Fruits (Orchard Hill Farms, Kendallville)
May 12	Lawns and Vegetables, Test Prep (Allen County Extension Office, Fort Wayne)

If you require auxiliary aids or services, or for other program-related concerns, please contact your local educator at least 2 weeks prior to the program.

Thank you for your interest in the Purdue Extension Master Gardener Program!

Sincerely,

Cora Hill, Allen County: hill272@purdue.edu, 260-481-6826

Jeff Burbrink, LaGrange County: jburbrink@purdue.edu, 260-499-6334

Ann Kline, Noble County: kline60@purdue.edu, 260-636-2111

John E. Woodmansee, Whitley County: jwoodman@purdue.edu, 260-244-7615