

Dear Gardening Enthusiast,

Thank you for your interest in the Purdue Extension Master Gardener (EMG) Program. Past participants in the Basic Training class have indicated that 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 2026 Basic Training class for an individual is \$180. Couples in the same household sharing the Master Gardener manual may attend for \$280. (*The first registration will appear as \$180, with the sharing individual attending for an additional \$100.*) This fee covers supplies, classroom expenses, and name badges. You will receive many 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

Classes will be held on Mondays, September 14 through December 21, from 6-9 p.m (see the enclosed *preliminary schedule*).

Note: this is a bi-county training for Allen and Whitley Counties. Classes will be held at the Allen County Extension Office (2090 N State Rd. 9, Albion) Sep. 14 - Oct. 26, and in Whitley County (Whitley County Fairgrounds, 680 W. Squawbuck Road, Columbia City, IN) Nov. 2 - Dec. 21.



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 10 scholarship winners. The award is \$90. The scholarship application will be due with the Extension Master Gardener Application and Agreement Form in the Extension office by Aug. 31. Scholarships will be awarded upon completion of the class and passing the final exam.

Please plan ahead! Complete tasks well *before* deadlines if possible! If you wish to pay for the class by check, see the special note below.

- **By August 31:**
 - 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.
 - If you believe you qualify and are interested in the scholarship, fill out and submit the “*Whitley County Master Gardener Association Scholarship Application*”.
- **By Sept. 8:**
 - Once a preliminary screening is complete and you are accepted into the program, you will receive enrollment and payment instructions.
 - Enroll and pay online through "Cvent." Payment via credit card is preferred.
 - ***If you prefer to write a check, please plan further ahead so that your application is approved and the check may be sent to Purdue University by Aug. 31 (details explained in the online enrollment). It is suggested you submit your application by Aug. 17 in this scenario.***
- **Sept. 14:** Orientation class in Fort Wayne. (The Purdue Extension – Allen County office is on the Purdue Fort Wayne campus)

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

Sincerely,

John Woodmansee
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Whitley County
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Enclosures:

- Purdue Master Gardener Program Policy Guide (MG-5-W)
- Preliminary Master Gardener Basic Training Class Schedule
- Purdue Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Application and Agreement (Form EMG-1),
- Whitley County Master Gardener Association Scholarship Application