

## What is the Master Gardener Program?

The Master Gardener program is a volunteer-based program, begun in Washington in 1972. It is offered in Arkansas through the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. Each local Master Gardener group is coordinated and supervised by the county Extension agent.

The main purposes of the organization are to offer horticultural information to the community and to provide educational experiences through the various projects.

Each volunteer receives 40 hours of classroom instruction in several topics, including—but not limited to lawn care, ornamentals, elementary botany, plant pathology, entomology, soil science and plant nutrition, fruit production, vegetable gardening, pesticide safety, and growing annuals and perennials.

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer."

## SALINE COUNTY



Saline County Cooperative  
Extension Service

1605 Edison Ave, #15  
Benton, AR 72015

501-303-5672

## Who are Arkansas Master Gardeners?

**Master Gardeners** are members of the community who love plants, gardening, and being outside. They enjoy learning about plants and are eager to share their knowledge and experience with diverse groups of people.

**Master Gardeners** are volunteers who, after receiving special horticultural training, work through the Cooperative Extension office to provide horticultural information to their community members.

**Master Gardeners** are enthusiastic workers on community horticultural beautification projects, such as planning gardens for park areas, maintaining existing flower beds at public buildings, planting trees along roadsides, or presenting programs to community groups.

**Master Gardeners** are people who have fun. They visit gardens and nurseries, attend workshops, seminars and statewide meetings and conferences.

**Master Gardeners** are learners who have time to undergo intensive training and who have time to commit to projects.

**Master Gardeners** are representatives of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. All projects and gardening advice follow the recommendations of the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

## What Do Saline County Master Gardeners Do?

**Master Gardeners** may select from numerous projects in Saline County. Flower beds and plantings are maintained at these locations:

**Gann Museum** – 218 South Market Street, Benton.

**Veterans Memorial** – on the grounds of the Saline County Courthouse

**Courthouse Gazebo** – on the lawn of the Saline County Courthouse.

**Horticulture Building** – County Fairgrounds, 406 Fairfield Rd., Benton

**Salvation Army Building** – 129 N. Main, Benton.

**Bryant Library** – 201 Prickett Rd, Bryant.

**Owens-Mooney Park** - Benton

**Sunset Lake** – Benton

**Sevier Triangle** – at the intersection of North Richards and Sevier, Benton.

**Crape Myrtle Project** – Benton Parkway

**Arkansas Health Center** – 6701 Highway 67, Benton.

**Crepe Myrtle Project** – Downtown Benton

**Other opportunities include the flower show and plant sale, county fair, Old Fashioned Day, newsletter, photography, extension office, and numerous committees.**

## How Do I Become a Master Gardener?

- Have love for gardening and for sharing one's knowledge.
- Obtain an application from the Saline County Cooperative Extension office, 1605 Edison Avenue, Ste 15, Benton, AR 72015.
- Be interviewed by the county agent.
- Pay a registration fee covering the cost of training, materials and lunches.
- Undergo 40 hours of intensive educational training in almost every aspect of horticulture.
- Volunteer a minimum of 40 hours during the first year of participation.
- Fulfill a yearly minimum of 20 hours of participation in projects and educational activities.