

Master Gardener Only Advanced Master Gardener Program for Arkansas

General Information

Background: The Master Gardener Program has been in existence in Arkansas since 1988. Counties are looking for retention tools for their programs to keep members interested. As members remain in the program, many are interested in obtaining more in depth knowledge about specific topics, and in obtaining an advanced level of certification.

Purpose: The concept is to create a new level of certification in the Master Gardener Program that will address the desires of active Master Gardeners and facilitate growth of the program across the state.

- To provide new in depth training opportunities for current Master Gardeners
- To expand their knowledge and interest and encourage their continued participation in the program
- To establish another level of certification entitled "Advanced Master Gardener".

Eligibility: The advanced training will be open statewide only to current Master Gardeners in good standing who have fulfilled all requirements for 3 years. For example, a Master Gardener who trained in the year 2000 is eligible in 2003. Master Gardeners must remain in good standing in their county program to continue taking courses and to achieve the advanced certification. Master Gardener Sustainers will be allowed to take the course if there is space available, but hours will not be counted toward advanced certification.

Location and Size of Session: For the purposes of this training, Arkansas MG Districts (Ozark, Delta and Ouachita) are encouraged to host training sessions, although single counties may serve as host for the district. Helpful how-to guidelines are provided to assist host groups and to ensure consistency. All training should be offered to as many eligible Master Gardeners as a facility will allow with a minimum of 50 participants, if at all possible. Host counties should limit the number of participants from that county to ensure statewide participation. If a hands-on activity is being offered, breakout sessions are encouraged.

How to Host a Training Session: There is a uniform Guideline sheet available online to aid in the planning process. In addition, state coordination will be provided.

Cost: Charges for the courses may vary but should be based on estimated costs to put on training - material, speaker, facility, meals, postage, copies, etc. plus \$5 per participant to be sent to County 76 by way of the Advanced Training Coordinator to defray program expenses.