

NMSU Master Gardener Course Information

Thank you for your interest in becoming an Extension Master Gardener! The New Mexico State Extension Master Gardener program trains and supports volunteers in their outreach efforts to provide scientific and research-based horticulture related information to the community.

As a Master Gardener student you will have access to 15 weeks of training materials on many different topics. The course will open tentatively in late December for viewing to allow ample time to set up the students' access and explore the content. Coursework begins tentatively in the second week of January.

Course topics include:

- Soil Health
- Basic Botany
- Tree Selection & Care
- Fruit & Nut Production
- Growing Vegetables
- Growing Ornamentals
- Irrigation
- Plant Identification
- Weed Management
- Plant Pathology
- Entomology
- Turf Selection & Care

Each week students are responsible for completing a (non-graded) pre-quiz, viewing the training videos and supplemental materials, and passing the post quiz with at least 70%. Successful completion of the course can typically be accomplished in approximately 5-6 hours per week. Student progress is monitored throughout the course to ensure success.

Individual modules open each week on Saturday at 12:00 am and the quiz is due the following Sunday at 11:59 pm. All materials must be completed in the current module to advance to the next. Students may go back and review content from previous modules at any time but may not move ahead of schedule.

A live (zoom) Question and Answer session with the Specialist is held each Thursday from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. Attendance at the Q & A session is not required and the session is recorded and posted on the module for later viewing.

The cost of the course is \$200.00 and is payable to LAMG (Los Alamos Master Gardeners). For individuals who wish to take the course as a student only and do not complete the service portion of the program, the cost is \$300.00. Payment (cash or check) is due before January 15, 2025, and accepted at the Cooperative Extension Office at 1251 Bathtub Row in Los Alamos.

Students must be at least 18 years of age and live in Los Alamos County. Basic computer skills and access to computer equipment with reliable internet service is essential to complete the online course.

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS:

Upon completion of the course, students must complete 30 hours of volunteer service with the Los Alamos Master Gardener chapter before November 15th of the first year. Students are invited to join the chapter to network with veteran Master Gardeners at any time in their first year. After the first year, Veteran members are required to complete 15 hours of service and 10 hours of continuing education each year to maintain membership. There are several opportunities to accomplish service hours including:

- Demonstration Garden maintenance (corner of Oppenheimer and Central Ave)
- Master Gardeners plant sale fundraiser
- Garden tours
- Presentation of an educational program
- Public outreach at a community event
- County fair support to Extension office
- Science fair judging
- Support for other Extension related programs

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS:

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of an auxiliary aid or service to participate, please contact Los Alamos Cooperative Extension before January 1, 2025, at (505) 662-2656 or losalamos@nmsu.edu.

If you are in need of financial assistance, scholarships are available (based on need) and require full commitment to the program as a volunteer.

Refunds may be granted through the first week of the course for extenuating circumstances. No refunds will be granted after the end of the first week.

Click [here](#) to register for the 2026 Master Gardener Class.