

## **Master Gardener Training and Activities**

The Master Gardener Training Program is demanding and intense. Formal classroom constitutes more than 75% of the training period. Subjects include basic botany, soils, fertilizers, vegetables, entomology, citrus, turfgrass, use of (and alternatives to) chemicals, ornamentals, diseases, and other related topics. All information is based on the knowledge and research from the University of Florida.

Master Gardeners deal only with homeowner questions. Extension faculty responds to all commercial and professional grower concerns. Upon completion of the training period, all Master Gardener trainees are required to pass a comprehensive examination on the materials covered throughout training.

Master Gardener activities include, but are not limited to the following:

- Disseminating science-based information through Ask the Master Gardener plant clinics
- Answering telephone calls or other clerical work
- Develop and deliver presentations for garden clubs/civic associations
- Gardening in the UF/IFAS Extension Demonstration Garden
- Gardening while teaching youth at the Sumter County Youth Center
- Setting up and cleaning up for meetings and demonstration booths
- Staffing extension events and booths
- Writing informational articles for newspapers and other media
- Fundraising organization and participation
- Working in our community gardens
- Participating in various educational field trips
- Other various approved activities within Sumter County

The Master Gardeners assist Agents and staff; therefore, represent and serve as an outreach for the UF/IFAS Extension Program. As such, they provide advice and recommendations, which have been well documented through experimentation and research and are approved by the University of Florida/IFAS.

The Master Gardener Program is an opportunity to learn and help others. We hope that you will become a part of this “growing” experience.

### **UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County Master Gardener Program**

Residential Horticulture Extension Agent II/Master Gardener Coordinator – Lisa T. Sanderson  
Program Assistant – Donna Lester

#### 2020 Master Gardener Executive Advisory Committee

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