

## About the Program

**Who:** Program participants include gardeners from all walks of life. Diversity in ethnicity, education and experience makes for a rich and rewarding learning experience.

**How:** Program participants are trained by NMSU Extension specialists, county agents and local experts on how to respond to community resident's questions and how to share what they've learned with others.

**What:** Master Gardeners volunteer their time assisting their local Cooperative Extension Agent in sharing appropriate research-based gardening information and techniques with the community. The outcomes of this program benefit everyone involved and the landscapes they inhabit.



## Master Gardener Curriculum

### Core Curriculum

- Fundamentals of Plant Science
- Fundamentals of Soil Science
- Climate and Water
- Plant Pathology
- Entomology and Integrated Pest Management
- Vegetable Production
- Weed Science

### Additional Classes

*Vary by county*

- Plant Identification and Selection
- Principles of Xeriscaping
- Landscape Design and Maintenance
- Native Plants
- Turfgrass Selection and Maintenance
- Urban Tree Care
- Fruit and Nut Production
- Vertebrate Pest Management
- Composting
- Greenhouse / Hoop-house Production
- Pollinators
- Seed Saving

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# New Mexico Extension Master Gardener Program



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**College of Agricultural, Consumer  
and Environmental Sciences**  
Cooperative Extension Service

## Master Gardener Programs and Contacts

Master Gardener classes are taught annually in some counties and every two years in other counties. Most counties offer classes in the spring, but a few offer classes in the fall. In order to find out more about the Master Gardener Program in your area, contact your local county extension office.

Bernalillo County	bernalillo@nmsu.edu	(505) 243-1386
Chaves County	chaves@nmsu.edu	(505) 622-3210
Colfax County	colfax@nmsu.edu	(575) 445-8071
Doña Ana County	donaana@nmsu.edu	(575) 525-6649
Eddy County	eddy@nmsu.edu	(575) 887-6595
Lea County	lea@nmsu.edu	(575) 396-2819
Los Alamos County	losalamos@nmsu.edu	(505) 662-2656
Otero County	otero@nmsu.edu	(575) 437-0231
San Juan County	sanjuan@nmsu.edu	(505) 334-9496
San Miguel and Mora County	sanmiguel@nmsu.edu	(505) 454-1497
Sandoval County	sandoval@nmsu.edu	(505) 867-2582
Santa Fe County	santafe@nmsu.edu	(505) 471-4711
Taos County	taos@nmsu.edu	(575) 758-3982
Valencia County	valencia@nmsu.edu	(505) 565-3002

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## Accomplishments and Impacts

- Master Gardener programs train more than 300 new Master Gardeners annually and have more than 1,000 active Master Gardeners statewide.
- Master Gardeners in New Mexico volunteer more than 50,000 hours of service valued at more than \$1 million to the counties — volunteer service is equivalent to hiring 28 staff members.
- Teachers in Doña Ana County who took part in the program started gardens at their schools. They report that this has helped students develop a greater interest in science, acquire healthier eating habits and improve their overall attitude and behavior.
- Master Gardeners in Sandoval County grow and donate more than 62,000 pounds of vegetables to local community food banks.
- In many counties, xeric native-plant gardens established by Master Gardeners teach visitors the importance of water conservation.



## Volunteer Activities

*Volunteer activities vary by county but may include the following:*

- Answering calls on the gardening hotline
- School and youth education programs
- Adult education programs
- Development and maintenance of community gardens
- Growing and donating produce to community food banks
- Plant clinics – answering questions at community events and farmer's markets
- Home visits
- Assisting with CES workshops and conferences
- Assisting NMSU faculty with extension demonstration and research projects