

Summer 2011

Dear Master Gardener Applicant:

Thank you for expressing interest in the Mercer County Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program of the Rutgers/New Jersey Agriculture Experiment Station. I am enclosing a copy of the program history, components, and requirements and a separate application form. Please read the information carefully. The Master Gardeners of Mercer County is not a "garden club," but is a volunteer service organization to train you to provide information to the public.

The 2012 course begins on Thursday, September 29, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and will continue nearly every Thursday through March 2012. Each class will cover a different topic. We plan to have a field trip to the Mercer Educational Gardens in Pennington on a date to be announced.

We request \$200 to cover the costs of the program. If you decide to apply, please enclose your check or money order payable to *Rutgers, the State University* with your application.

Many of your questions and concerns should be covered on the program sheet. If you need more information about our Master Gardener program or the courses, please call me at (609) 989-6830 or the Master Gardener Helpline at (609) 989-6853 to talk to someone who is currently a Master Gardener. You may also access the Master Gardener website at www.mgofmc.org.

Mercer County is extremely proud of our award-winning Master Gardeners, their program, and the public response to the information provided. I hope you will want to be included as a member of the class of 2012.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Hughes
County Executive

**County Board
Of Chosen
Freeholders**

Ann M. Cannon
Anthony P. Carabelli
Pasquale Colavita, Jr.
Keith V. Hamilton
Tony Mack
Lucyille R. S. Walter

Barbara J. Bromley
Mercer County Horticulturist
Master Gardener Program Advisor

Enclosures: MG Application and Program History



**RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF
MERCER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER APPLICATION: 2011-12**

I wish to become a participant in the RCE of Mercer County Master Gardener Training program and would like to be accepted into the 2012 class. I understand that upon successful completion of the training, I must perform 60 hours of volunteer service by mid-October 2012 to attain the title of Certified Master Gardener.

Signature _____ Date _____

(PLEASE PRINT **VERY NEATLY** (especially the **email address**). The application and a check for \$200 payable to **Rutgers, the State University** are due at the Extension office by September 6, 2011 at the latest; however, acceptance is on a first come-first served basis. Return in person or by mail to: *Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Mercer County, 930 Spruce Street, Trenton, NJ 08648.*

Name _____ Name (for nametag) _____

Address _____ Town _____ Zip Code _____

Home phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail (be neat!) _____ FAX number _____

Please list your occupation (before retirement, if applicable) and any skills in non-horticultural areas (art, computer, graphic design, public speaking, photography, etc.) that might be relevant to your Master Gardener volunteer activities: _____

Past volunteer experience or civic activity and positions held: _____

Please describe your level of expertise in gardening and horticulture. (Experience is *not* a requirement)
beginner ____ intermediate ____ advanced ____ expert ____

Why are you interested in becoming a Master Gardener volunteer? _____

The 60-hour volunteer requirement is **not** optional. Do you anticipate any circumstance that would keep you from fulfilling this requirement? yes _____ no _____

Are you a professional horticulturist or in a horticulture-related field? Yes _____ No _____

Office use: Date rcvd _____ Accepted Y N \$200 rcvd/ck # _____ Wait-listed: _____
