

2024



HIGHLAND LAKES MASTER GARDENER
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM--APPLICATION



Identification Information (Please Print Clearly):

Name preferred on Name Badges, Class and Association Rosters, and Certificates –

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone - _____

E-mail address: _____

Master Gardener T-Shirt size (Circle one) S M L XL XXL

Application Process

1. Complete the application and the background check form located at www.burnetcountyhighlandlakesmastergardener.org.
2. Submit it with full payment to the HLMGA Certification Program Communication Coordinator:

Julie Sartor 1105 Majestic Hills BLVD, Spicewood, TX 78669. *Credit card payments will be accepted, please see below

Joan Altobelli at 512-680-1427, if you have any additional questions.

3. Cost of the program is \$175 per person. Make checks payable to "**Highland Lakes Master Gardener Association**". In the memo indicate "2024 Class". If you are a couple registering and would like to share one handbook you may deduct \$80 from the second registration.
4. Applications must be received by January 3, 2024. Applications will be screened, and acceptance will be made by the Master Gardener Association and Texas AgriLife.
5. Classes begin on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, and continue each Wednesday through April 17, 2024.
6. Attendance at all classes is required unless there is an emergency. Most classes will be held at the Texas AgriLife Extension Auditorium, 607 North Vandevener, Burnet, Texas,

78611 9:30-2p.m. Field trips may be scheduled, please note that flexibility on meeting time and location is required.

7. All future correspondence, including class assignments and reference material will be sent via email, please use an address you will be checking regularly.

PLEASE INITIAL EACH OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION:

- **Requirements to Achieve Initial Certification as a Texas Master Gardener**

1. Attend ALL classes scheduled: 40 hours of instruction.
2. Complete 50 hours of Volunteer Service in an APPROVED Master Gardener project/activity. Hours must be acquired and posted no later than one year from the date of their last class.
3. Complete an additional 10 hours of Advanced Training (beyond the scheduled classes) Hours must be acquired and posted no later than one year from the date of their last class.
4. I understand and agree to the requirements to achieve initial certification. _____
(initial here)

- **Requirements to Maintain Certification (subsequent years)**

1. Complete 25 hours of Volunteer Service in an approved HLMGA project/activity. Hours must be acquired and posted no later than January 15th of each year.
2. Complete 6 hours of Advanced Training. Hours must be acquired and posted no later than January 15th of each year.
3. Pay Association dues. Dues must be paid by January 31st each year.
4. I understand and agree to the requirements to maintain certification. _____ (initial here)

- **Please Answer the Following Questions About Becoming a Master Gardener:**

1. Why do you want to be certified as a Master Gardener? Discuss some of your experiences with gardening.
2. This program requires a significant commitment to volunteer work and advanced education. On average, how many hours per month can you commit to volunteer activity?

3. Do you have any non-gardening skills that would contribute towards the organization?

- **In the section below, please do a self-assessment of your knowledge and skills as it relates to a variety of topics that will be covered in the Master Gardener Certification Program. “1” is an acceptable answer, it provides a basis from which to learn. Rank your knowledge and/or skill on a 1-10 scale, with 1 being NO experience and 10 being HIGH level of experience, indicate the appropriate number in front of the skill category.**

- **Self-Assessment**

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| _____ Soil and Soil Fertility | _____ Vegetable Gardening |
| _____ Plant Propagation | _____ Landscape design |
| _____ Trees | _____ Water requirements |
| _____ Fruit and Nut tree production | _____ Composting |
| _____ Insects | _____ Organic gardening |
| _____ Plant diseases | _____ Keyhole or other types of raised gardens |
| _____ Turf Grass | _____ Volunteering in the community |

- **Accepting the Challenge:**

I have reviewed all the information and am ready to accept the Challenge: to apply my skills and abilities to developing a gardening ethic to promote a sustainable environment; to apply my time and energy to developing a volunteer ethic to promote sustainable natural beauty in my community; and to enjoy the direct benefits of these efforts and learning experiences in my home landscape. I understand that accepting this challenge leads to Certification as a Texas Master Gardener only after I have fulfilled all of the requirements of the Master Gardener program as previously outlined.

Signature: _____ Date _____

MAKE \$175 CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
HIGHLAND LAKES MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Mail check, completed application, and background form to:

Julie Sartor, HLMGA Class Communication Coordinator
1105 Majestic Hills BLVD, Spicewood, TX 78669

*For credit card payments an additional fee will be added to cover the service charge. Please email [juliesar09@gmail](mailto:juliesar09@gmail.com) for instructions.

- **Any questions, text or call:**

HLMGA Certification Program Coordinators:

Julie Sartor, Communications Coordinator at (775) 843-2305

Joan Altobelli, Class Facilitation Coordinator at (512) 680-1427, or

Stacy Barnett, Admin. Assistant, Burnet Co. Office, Texas A&M AgriLife Ext. Service at (512) 756-5463

- **Individuals with disabilities** who require auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation to participate in this program are encouraged to contact the Burnet County Office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 512-756-5463 to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.
- **Texas A&M AgriLife provides equal opportunity** in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, or veteran status.
- **Refund policy:**
 1. 100% before textbooks are ordered.
 2. No refunds after class starts except for extenuating circumstances.
 3. 80% refund for withdrawing for extenuating circumstances - within the first two weeks of class. This refund will be reduced by the cost of the textbook.
 4. 80% refund if background check is returned marked "not clear". This refund will be reduced by the cost of the textbook and the cost of the background check.