TRAIN TO BE A MASTER GARDENER

Are you new to the area and trying to understand our seasons? Not sure what plants to grow? The Osceola Master Gardeners, volunteers for the Osceola County Extension Service, enjoy sharing gardening information with others. Extension agents and professors from the University of Florida provide training for Master Gardener volunteers. There are classes on a variety of gardening topics for Master Gardener volunteers. The volunteers then extend gardening information to the many residents in Osceola County.

Classes for the new crop of Master Gardeners begin Sept. 26 and continue once a week until mid-December. The programs cover information on soils, fertilizers, weeds and insects. Find out about growing fruits and vegetables for our Central Florida climate. Trees and shrubs need water and sunlight. Learn which ones are most adapted to your yard. When pests become a problem indoors or outside, use least toxic pest control methods to manage the problem. Master Gardeners will learn what works and why so they can have the least impact on water quality and avoid pollution.

Master Gardeners learn from each other and have two demonstration garden sites at our Osceola County Extension office. Situated on U.S.Highway 192 next to the rodeo between Kissimmee and St. Cloud, the gardens are open to the public all year. Visit the vegetable garden on Mondays about 8 a.m., talk to our volunteers and get ideas about herbs and vegetables. Volunteers meet on Wednesday mornings and have a beautiful demonstration landscape. Stop by any day and watch the birds and butterflies as you enjoy the shade of the gazebo.

Master Gardeners can help residents in a variety of ways after they are certified. Joyce Salg, Susan Senger, Monica French, Shirley Tabar, and Patrick and Carolyn Lamond were busy at Discover Osceola on Thursday night. They handed out gardening tips and helped visitors plant seeds. On Sept. 16, Master Gardeners Joyanne and Ralph Stahl will be at the school district's Environmental Center open house. The day can be a great family outing. Watch for the bald eagles over the boardwalk or tour many educational exhibits.

To be a Master Gardener, contact our office.

Master Gardeners help answer questions at our extension office on Mondays to Fridays from 10 am to 2 pm. Obtain lists of plants for Central Florida by calling (321) 697-3000 or check our Web site at http://osceola.ifas.ufl.edu. Use the EDIS button for keyword search of University of Florida references.

Eleanor Foerste
Natural Resources Agent
Osceola County Extension/University of Florida
1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane
Kissimmee, FL 34744
(321) 697-3000
Fax (321) 697-3010
efoe@osceola.org
osceola.ifas.ufl.edu
Date: September 8th, 2000