

Master Gardeners – Who We Are

The Master Gardener program is a volunteer program in which K-State Research and Extension provides classroom training in exchange for volunteer time in the community. Training consists of 40 to 50 hours of instruction in all aspects of horticulture. Instructors include specialists from Kansas State University, local extension agents, and local experts in specific subject matter.

After training is completed, volunteers are required to donate 40 hours of service per year in order to maintain active EMG status. Community service activities are coordinated by the local county extension agent. Though volunteer activities vary widely, they are educational, extension related and represent the interests of K-State Research and Extension.

Master Gardeners have become a vital part of the University's ability to provide accurate, up-to-date and research-based information to the public. Master Gardeners in Kansas have donated thousands of volunteer hours a year, a value to the community in the millions of dollars.

Mission Statement

The Marais des Cygnes Extension District Master Gardeners Association is a volunteer organization of specifically trained Miami County or Linn County residents designed to provide the public with sound, research-based horticultural information. The purpose of this Association is to participate in non-commercial, educational and community service projects for Miami County and Linn County. The Association embodies the horticultural education objectives of Marais des Cygnes Extension District cooperating with Kansas State University and the United States Department of Agriculture.

How to Enroll

Download the online application at www.maraisdescygn.es.ksu.edu or call 913-294-4306 for more information. Applications should be submitted by July 31.



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Marais des Cygnes Extension District

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Paola, Kansas 66071
Phone: 913-294-4306
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Mound City, Kansas 66056
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www.maraisdescygn.es.ksu.edu

Follow the Marais des Cygnes EMGs
at www.facebook.com/mdcemg

Welcome to the Marais des Cygnes Extension District Master Gardener Program

Master Gardeners are a vital part of K-State Research and Extension.

Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs) help our county agents meet the need for horticultural information in our community by donating their time, knowledge and passion.

The means of providing this information is diverse, including demonstration gardens, public presentations, horticultural "hotlines," garden tours, sharing and caring.



Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact the Marais des Cygnes Extension District at 913-294-4306. **Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service** K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Program Requirements

- You must be a resident of Miami or Linn County, Kansas and have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Have a broad interest in horticulture and experience in some area of home gardening.
- Be available for about 48 hours of daytime training classes your first year. The class for new Extension Master Gardeners meets on eight Tuesdays during the months of September, October, and November at the Johnson County Extension Office in Olathe. A course fee is charged to cover the cost of course materials, which includes extensive written information about each topic covered.

Topics include Botany, Soils, Pesticide Use and Safety, Annuals and Perennials, Pruning, Fruits and Nuts, Vegetables, Entomology, Turf, Wildlife, Plant Pathology, Landscape Design, Woody Ornamentals and more.

- Make a commitment of a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer time and 10 hours of continuing education per year in order to remain in the Master Gardener program.
- Enjoy working with people and teaching in both one-on-one and group situations.

Become a Master Gardener if you want to learn more about horticulture and are willing to share your knowledge with others. Advanced training is regularly offered to Master Gardeners.



What Extension Master Gardeners Do

- Assist with garden clinics, exhibitions, and educational events for the public
- Work with youth programs to share gardening information
- Answer garden questions through the extension office hotline
- Work on community beautification projects

Enjoy sharing your love of gardening with others through various Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener projects such as:

- Maintaining Public Gardens
 - Miami County Courthouse Gardens
 - KSU Extension Office Garden
 - Trial Garden
 - Lakemary Ranch Gardens
- **Ongoing Advanced Training**
 - Master Gardener meetings



Special Events

- Annual Awards Banquet
- Quarterly Potlucks and Programs
- Spring Gardening Symposium

Fundraisers and Education

- Annual Plant Sale
- Garden Tour (Bi-Annual)

Outreach

- Seeds for Kids
- Touch-a-Truck
- Miami County Fair
- Articles for Local Publications
- Speakers' Bureau
- Hotline

Visit us at www.facebook.com/mdcemg



History of the Program

The Master Gardener Program is a Kansas State University Extension program. The national organization was founded in Washington State in 1970 as a training tool for volunteers wanting to assist in the delivery of educational programs on a county wide basis.

In exchange for intensive training, volunteers agreed to help the extension service provide information to the public.

The Kansas program was started in Johnson County in 1980. Forty Kansas counties now have active Extension Master Gardener programs.

The local program started in 1996 in Miami County. In 2015 our program expanded to include Linn County, and the district was renamed the Marais des Cygnes Extension District Master Gardeners.



The original Miami County Courthouse