

Master Gardener Program

What would you say to a service that was just a phone call away, come right to your door, and answer all your gardening questions on any subject at no charge? That is exactly what the Master Gardener Program provides to the gardening community of Arizona. Originating in Seattle in 1972, this program can now be found in every state. Co-sponsored by the University of Arizona and the Cooperative Extension of Pinal County, these trained volunteers are graduates of a series of garden and landscape short courses. Each is an enthusiastic gardener, some on a professional level, others backyard hobbyists, but all willing to share their skills and experience via telephone, e-mail, or in person. With the full backing of the University behind them, there will be few questions they can not answer. Giving talks to local gardening clubs, introducing children to gardening, creating and maintaining demonstration gardens, and a dozen other plant related services are all labors of love for these plant enthusiasts.

Have some time on your hands and a love for gardening as well? Why not become a Master Gardener yourself? Enrollment in the short courses is open to anyone. Class topics include subject such as Plant Growth and Development, Soils, Fertilizers, Watering Practices, Pest Management and Pruning Concepts, just to name a few. Classes are held in diverse locations, such as the Superior Public Library, Central Arizona College in Apache Junction, Casa Grande, and Saddlebrooke Golf Club in Tucson.

For information on the short courses or to obtain answers to gardening questions, call the Pinal County Extension Office at (520) 836-5221, extension 227.