

**Cottonwood District
Barton and Ellis County
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM**

2026 Application

County: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ City/Zip: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Office): _____

Mission: The Cottonwood District Extension *Master Gardener Program* is a volunteer organization designed to provide the public with sound horticultural information.

Guidelines for Master Gardener Program Participation: Admission to the *Master Gardener Program* requires that the applicant:

- ◆ Be a Cottonwood District (Ellis or Barton County) resident, or agree to repay your commitment of Volunteer service in the Cottonwood District.
- ◆ Have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- ◆ Possess a broad interest in horticulture.
- ◆ Support the objectives of the *Master Gardener Program* and the Extension Programs of the Cottonwood District Extension Council.
- ◆ Be able to read and comprehend an extensive notebook of support materials to be used for future reference.
- ◆ Complete the basic *Master Gardener Training Course*.
- ◆ Complete the 40 hours of volunteer work with Extension Agent-approved projects by December 31st following basic course completion.
- ◆ Continuation as a *Master Gardener* in good standing requires completion of 8 hours of Advanced Master Gardener training and a minimum of 20 volunteer hours annually.

Present Occupation:

Employed Full Time: _____

Homemaker: _____

Employed Part Time: _____

Retired: _____

Will your employment or other regular commitments allow you to be available to participate in the Basic *Master Gardener Training Course* and in required volunteer activities? Yes ____ No ____

Gardening Experience: Please describe any training courses or experience you have had in gardening.

Check area (s) of specialization or experience:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| ☐ Annuals | ☐ House Plants | ☐ Trees and Shrubs |
| ☐ Art or drawing | ☐ Landscaping | ☐ Vegetables |
| ☐ Computers | ☐ Lawn Care | ☐ Water Gardening |
| ☐ Fruit | ☐ Perennials | ☐ Writing |
| ☐ Herbs | ☐ Photography | ☐ Other (please explain) |

Garden Group Affiliation(s):

Other associated volunteer activities:

Your role as a Master Gardener:

As a trained *Master Gardener*, how would you rank your enjoyment of the following types of activity: (1 indicates the most enjoyable, 5 the least)

	Research some horticultural topic and prepare an article or report on your findings.
	Participate in a discussion group with other <i>Master Gardeners</i> .
	Lead a discussion with neighbors on gardening practices.
	Instruct a class on pruning fruit trees or some other specific topic.
	Teach young children about gardening basics.
	Organize a neighborhood growing group.
	Work in a garden.
	Design and plant a garden.

Explain briefly why you wish to become a *Master Gardener*.

If KSU and Extension scientific research and experience indicate benefits from the use of chemical compounds for specific horticultural purposes, would you recommend their use to gardeners who are seeking your advice even though you may personally oppose the use of any chemical interventions? (If your answer is no, please explain).

Thank you for your interest in the *Master Gardener Program* and for completing the application. It will be carefully considered and you will be contacted by the end of August.

Please be sure to sign the application.

AGREEMENT

I wish to become a Cottonwood District Extension *Master Gardener Trainee* and would be available for the training session which begins September 3, 2026 and continues each Thursday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm through December 3, 2026. Trainings can be attended at either the Hays office, 601 Main St., Hays; the Great Bend Office, 3007 10th St., Great Bend; or online at a time convenient for me. Understanding that trainings and follow-up quizzes need to be completed weekly.

I understand that if accepted into the Training Program, I am entering into a contract to return 40 hours of volunteer time in communicating research-based horticultural information to the public by December 31st of the following year, after the basic training course completion. I further understand that continuation as an active *Master Gardener* in good standing requires completion of both 8 hours of *Advanced Master Gardener Training* and a minimum of 20 volunteer hours annually. I also understand that I may be asked to assist with transportation to the training and will be required to pay a fee of \$90.00 to help cover costs of the *Master Gardener* notebook and meeting expenses.

Master Gardener volunteers may not participate in the Cottonwood District Extension *Master Gardener Program* for personal gain or for commercial recommendations or endorsements. *Master Gardeners* are expected to provide recommendations based on research-based information and to provide educational program assistance in support of the general County / District Extension education program.

***Master Gardeners* operate under the control of a trained Extension professional responsible for monitoring their performance and the progress of their continuing education.**

Signed,

Master Gardener Applicant

Date

RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO EITHER OF THE COTTONWOOD DISTRICT EXTENSION OFFICES, HAYS OR GREAT BEND.