

Is the Master Gardening for You?

To help you decide, ask yourself the following questions:

- Do I want to learn more about plants, growing things, and gardening?
- Am I eager to participate in a practical and intensive training program?
- Am I willing to work with the Horticulture Agent in special projects?
- Do I look forward to sharing my knowledge with people in my community?
- Do I have enough time to attend the training and to complete my volunteer work?

If you answered yes to all of these questions, the Master Gardener Program could be for you.

What is the Master Gardener Program?

- The Master Gardener Program provides gardeners with intensive education in home horticultural principles. Participants who complete the program are certified as Master Gardeners by the Florida Extension Service.
- Working with the Extension Agent, Master Gardeners provide volunteer service to their community in gardening activities. Activities

include answering gardening questions, conducting plant clinics, public speaking, citrus home visits, maintaining demonstration gardens and working directly with the Agent on short-term research projects.

- After receiving intensive horticultural training and satisfactorily meeting other program requirements, Master Gardeners are required to volunteer for 50 hours of active service each year.
- Many Master Gardeners far exceed the required service hours, some giving over 200 hours per year. Many also continue in the program beyond the first year because of their interest and willingness to help others and the personal satisfaction derived from participation in this University of Florida based program.

Continued Master Gardener training

- The learning process never ends for Master Gardeners. Continued training is offered numerous times each year on the local and state levels to keep Master Gardeners up-to-date on the latest horticultural information.
- Our bi-monthly training consist of updates of garden problems, a recount of Master Gardener activities and often a guest speaker.
- The Master Gardener State training is in the fall. This is your chance to meet other great volunteers.
- Other training is offered, when and where appropriate.

How to become a Master

- The desire to help others is a first and absolute requirement. A personal commitment to complete the training and to serve the required volunteer service hours is equally important.
- To learn more about becoming a Master Gardener, contact Peggy Cruz at (239) 533-7504, or e-mail her at cruzph@leegov.com. Enrollment is limited and selection is highly competitive, so call today and learn how you can become a Florida Master Gardener.
- For more information, visit the Florida Master Gardener websites at <http://hort.ufl.edu/mg/> or Lee County Master Gardener site at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/MGHomepage.shtml>

Registration

You may register now to become a Master Gardener. Go to

<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/MGHomepage.shtml>

for an application form. Please return the completed form to Lee County Extension Service, 3406 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33916 or e-mail it to cruzph@leegov.com

Thomas S. Becker
Master Gardener Coordinator/
Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Agent





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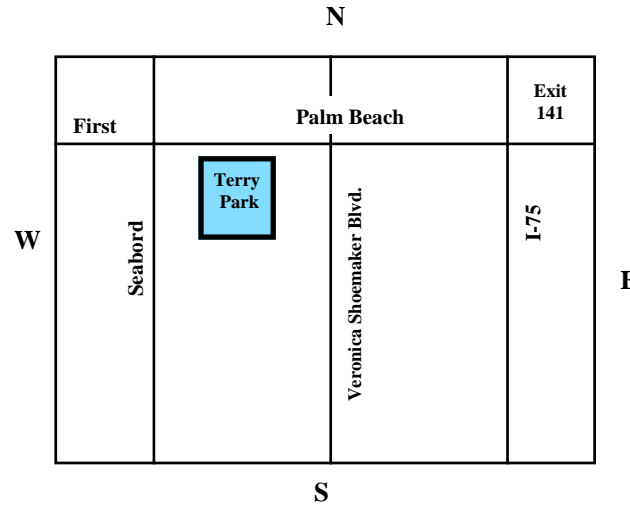
Nature Tours



Presentations



Lee County Florida Master Gardener Program



For more information about the Horticulture Program:

Lee County Extension Service
 3406 Palm Beach Blvd. • Fort Myers, FL 33916
 (239) 533-4327
 FAX: (239) 485-2305

Your Lee County Extension Service offers seminars and classes, on selected topics, free or at modest cost.

Extend Your Knowledge with the Lee County Extension Service



In compliance with ADA requirements, participants with special needs can be reasonably accommodated by contacting the Lee County Extension Service at least 10 working days prior to the meeting. We can be reached by phone at 239/533-4327, or by fax at 239/485-2305.

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