Lee County Master Gardener Training in 2013

**Event Date:** Every Friday starting January 11, 2013 and ending April 26, 2013, 9AM-Noon, 12:45-3:45PM

**WHO:** Lee County Resident

**WHERE HELD:** Lee County Extension at Terry Park, Fort Myers and the Eco-Living Center at Rutenberg Park in South Ft Myers.

**DESCRIPTION:** Do you like gardening and enjoy sharing your plant knowledge with others? You can make a difference in your yard and community green spaces by becoming a Lee County Master Gardener. This University of Florida/IFAS Extension program trains volunteer who in turn share what they were taught to others by public speaking, caring for demonstration gardens at Lakes, Terry and Rutenberg Park and answering gardening questions at the horticulture help desk at the extension office. Training topics covered include ornamental and environmental horticulture, Florida-Friendly Landscaping, growing citrus, identifying palms, producing garden fruits & vegetables, propagation, native, South Florida tropical trees, flowering shrubs and many native plants & herbs. Identifying plants and solving plant & pest problems associated with South Florida plants is a primary training objective.

84 hours of classroom, guided walks, field trips and plant & pest identification activities are planned. Still interested? Just complete the application form on-line at [http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNElectronicForm/MGApplication.pdf](http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNElectronicForm/MGApplication.pdf)

Participants are selected based on their gardening experience and interest in volunteering. Trainees become active with the Florida Yards & Neighborhood and home horticulture adult & youth (4-H) programs. Certified Florida Master Gardeners represent the University of Florida and Lee County/IFAS/Extension.

Each trainee also volunteers during and after completing all classes and requirements for one year. Classes are taught by the Lee County, Florida Yards & Neighborhood's agent, Tom Becker, horticulture agent, Stephen Brown and natural resources/Agriculture extension agent and many others.

Applications are now being accepted for the winter – spring, 2013 classes. Applications are accepted until December 3. For more information, contact the Horticulture Help Desk at (239) 533-7504 or Tom at (239)533-7515 or visit our website at [http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/MGHomepage.shtml](http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/MGHomepage.shtml).

Mail your completed application to: Lee County Extension Service, Thomas Becker, 3406 Palm Beach Blvd., Ft Myers, FL 33916

**Timeline:** In 2013, MG training classes are scheduled for 15 consecutive weeks each Friday (except for Good Friday) starting January 11, 2013 and continuing until April 26, 2013. Classes will be from 9AM to 3:45PM each Friday at one of two training sites, the extension office at Terry Park or the Eco-Living Center at Rutenberg Park. Both sites are in Ft Myers. Other field sites, demonstration gardens, plant nurseries, etc. are also used. **Cost:** $130 which includes the cost of a textbook on Landscape Plants for South Florida.