

Who are Certified Master Gardeners?



Master Gardeners are trained adult volunteers who are committed to increase the availability and outreach initiatives of Rutgers University's horticultural and environmental stewardship information to local communities and individuals.

A Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Certified Master Gardener is:



a program graduate who is an active volunteer and has completed his or her initial volunteer service requirement or a returning Master Gardener.



an individual who completes a minimum of 25 hours of volunteer service and 10 hours of education each year to maintain a valid status. Submission of a regularly updated record of all volunteer activities and continuing education hours is required.



an individual who honors the use of the title "Certified Master Gardener" which is to be used only and exclusively in the RCE Master Gardener program when conducting educational programming and participating in environmental stewardship outreach projects.

Tidbits to remember:



The Certified Master Gardener designation may become void when an individual ceases to maintain their annual re-certification status. Instead, he or she becomes a Master Gardener Alumnus, and should be aware that they cannot represent RCE or present themselves as Certified Master Gardeners.



A Master Gardener should not display credentials or give the appearance of being a Master Gardener at a place of business for the sole purpose of increasing sales or perceived endorsement. It is improper to imply that Rutgers University, The NJ Agricultural Experiment Station, or Rutgers Cooperative Extension endorses any product or place of business. Master Gardeners must not use their title in any form of commercial advertisement. The RCE Master Gardener program is a public service program established to provide unbiased research-based information.



When Certified Master Gardeners make public presentations, it is permissible to accept honoraria offered when they are used solely to support the local Rutgers Cooperative Extension office or RCE Master Gardener program. However, it is inappropriate to deposit these funds outside the RCE Master Gardener program or seek pay for speaking engagements or other volunteer efforts conducted as a Master Gardener.

For additional information, visit: www.mgofbc.org. Links are available to the By-Laws of the Master Gardeners of Bergen County and the RCE Master Gardener Policy and Procedures documents.