

For further information, visit the Monroe
County Extension Master Gardener

Web page at

http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn/lawn_mg.shtml

How do I download an application online?

[http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/Hort/
Master Gardener Application.pdf](http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/Hort/Master_Gardener_Application.pdf)

Complete the form below if you want to receive
an application via U.S. mail. You will be notified
when the next training session is offered.

Kim Gabel

Environmental Horticulture Agent

UF/IFAS/Monroe County Extension Svcs.

1100 Simonton Street, #2-260

Key West, FL 33040



**Please send me more information on
becoming a Master Gardener volunteer.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

E-mail _____

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**UF/IFAS/Monroe County Extension Services
1100 Simonton Street, #2-260
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UF/IFAS Monroe County Extension Services



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The Master Gardener Program

The Master Gardener Program was created in 1972 when an innovative Extension Service Agent in Washington State realized that well-trained volunteers could respond to many homeowner questions, freeing him and his colleagues for more technical and difficult problems. Since that time, the Master Gardener Program has grown to include all 50 States and Canada.

The Florida Master Gardener Program began in 1979, and is part of the Extension Service of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) in cooperation with the USDA and county governments. Florida Master Gardeners receive professional training in exchange for **volunteering** and sharing IFAS-based information about gardening.

Currently, there are Master Gardener training programs in 58 Florida counties and 4,000 active Florida Master Gardeners. In Monroe County there are 50 active Master Gardeners.

What does a Master Gardener do?

- Assist with phones at the Monroe County Extension Office and answer gardening questions.
- Staff plant clinics.
- Volunteer for horticulture events such as, Florida Keys GLEE Expo, Keys Energy Services Tree Give-away Day, Earth Day activities, and Native Plant Giveaways.
- Design and maintain various community garden demonstration projects.
- Florida-Friendly Landscape Yard Advisors helping Keys residents to create and maintain a Florida Keys-Friendly landscape.
- Speak to local groups about home gardening.

Qualifications

Ideal applicants are:

- Committed to volunteering and able to communicate horticulture knowledge with diverse people in Monroe County.
- Available to spend time volunteering, and attending quarterly meetings, field trips, and training sessions.
- Love gardening and have a desire to learn and practice environmentally-friendly horticulture methods and share this information with others.
- Eager to learn horticulture by actively participating in an intensive 72-hour, 12-week training program and committed to lifelong learning via continuing education activities.



Why become a Florida Master Gardener Volunteer?

Master Gardeners are citizens helping citizens who:

- Improve the efficiency of Extension Services and allow agents to develop proactive programs.
- Extend practical applications of IFAS-based research on gardening in Florida.
- Learn and share principles and practices of environmental horticulture.
- Volunteer to promote environmental awareness at a broad level.
- Serve as ambassadors of goodwill for Monroe County and the State of Florida.

Training and Certification

What will I learn?

If you are accepted into the Master Gardener Training Program, you will receive 72 hours of horticultural training one full day per week for 12 weeks and learn about:

- Botany, entomology, pathology, soil management, and plant nutrition.
- How to plant/maintain fruit crops, native trees, and landscape plants and turf in Monroe County.
- Providing customer service by answering homeowner's horticulture questions.
- Other related programs such as Florida Keys-Friendly Landscaping.

The program includes classroom training via lectures and group activities, field trips, and site visits. You will make a 20 minute presentation, take weekly quizzes, and a final exam.

For a nominal fee, you will receive a three volume set of study/reference materials including Master Gardener reference books, the Florida Lawn Handbook, and the Helpful, Harmful or Harmless: Learn the Difference Identification Deck.

What am I expected to do after completion of the program?

To maintain your certification as a Master Gardener, you are **expected** to:

- Volunteer a minimum of 50 hours the first year and 25 hours in following years to maintain active status.
- Attend Master Gardener quarterly meetings, field trips, and participate in various activities.
- Complete at least 10 hours of continuing education/training per year.