

## **What is the Master Gardener Program?**

The Master Gardener program grew out of a need to meet the increase in questions from home gardeners for horticultural information. Trained Master Gardeners play a vital part in providing consumers with up-to-date, unbiased, reliable knowledge.

The Master Gardener program is also a fun and useful volunteer activity that has given its participants a sense of community spirit, accomplishment and intellectual stimulation.

There are Master Gardener's programs in over forty states, the District of Columbia and Canada. The local program started in September 1989, and is administered by the University of California Cooperative Extension in Santa Barbara County in collaboration with the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

## **How Does the Program Work?**

To become certified as a Master Gardener, the first step is training. Following application, interview and acceptance into the program, trainees attend approximately 80 hours of class time studying accepted practices in horticulture. Instructors include University of California Cooperative Extension Farm Advisors and Extension Specialists, Agricultural Commission personnel, and other experts from the community. There is a \$75 fee for materials. Scholarships are available.

In exchange for the hours of training, a Master Gardener agrees to serve a minimum number of hours as a volunteer.

## **How do I qualify?**

All you need is a desire to expand your knowledge of horticulture and an enthusiasm for giving your time to share your horticultural skills with the community.

Applications to the Master Gardener program training are sent out to those requesting them in August/September. Classes run from October to April. For more information, please call University of California Cooperative Extension, 305 Camino del Remedio, CA 93110, (805) 692-1730. Or E-mail [cesantab@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cesantab@ucdavis.edu) to request an application.