

Post Rock Answers
By Cassie Thiessen August 16, 2024
Post Rock Extension District Horticulture Agent

K-State Research and Extension Master Gardener Program

If you love gardening, learning, sharing your knowledge with others, and volunteering in your community, the Extension Master Gardener Program may be for you! A new volunteer training class will be held in the fall of 2024.

The Extension Master Gardener Program is an educational volunteer program sponsored by K-State Research and Extension. By donating hours of service in return for horticultural training, Master Gardener volunteers are a vital part of Extension's ability to provide accurate, up-to-date, and research-based information to Kansas stakeholders.

Master Gardener volunteers work as part of their local Extension office to provide consumer horticulture education and information in their communities through a variety of activities, such as demonstration gardens, community beautification projects, tours, and more. The Post Rock Master Gardeners have helped with landscaping projects at the Smith County Courthouse, the Perdue Hospitality Home, the Waconda Visitor and Education Center, the Welcome to Mankato Highway Sign, and the Jewell County Courthouse. They have also participated in projects at the North Campus Community Garden and the Radish Patch Community Garden.

Master Gardener volunteers are educators passionate about strengthening vibrant local economies and livable communities by empowering individuals and families to cultivate healthy environments and food systems through horticultural practices. Any Kansas citizen with a passion for gardening, life-long learning, and community education can apply for the program.

Participation begins with a training course in basic horticulture instruction taught by K-State Research and Extension specialists and agents from across Kansas, held online via Zoom. The cost of the program is \$45.00 and the deadline to apply is August 28th. Contact Cassie Thiessen, Horticulture Agent for the Post Rock Extension District, for more information.

Post Rock Extension District of K-State Research and Extension serves Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, and Smith counties. Cassie may be contacted at cthiessen@ksu.edu or by calling Beloit (785-738-3597).