Have you ever......?
- Had a vegetable or flower garden
- Grown roses or houseplants
- Seeded, fertilized or mowed a lawn
- Planted or pruned trees or shrubs?

Do you enjoy......?
- Meeting and talking with people
- Searching for answers to questions that you or others have
- Writing
- Organizing workshops and seminars
- Attending educational classes on a wide range of horticultural topics
- Sharing your expertise and time with others in formal or informal settings?

Do you have......?
- Time each week or month that you can volunteer to University of Florida Extension Service of Charlotte County as we explore “Solutions for Your Life”?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, our Master Gardener Program might be an ideal volunteer opportunity for you.

For More Information...

About the Master Gardener program, please contact:
Ralph Mitchell, County Director & Extension Horticulture Agent
Or
Holly Shackelford, Horticulture Program Coordinator
Charlotte Co. UF/IFAS Extension Service
25550 Harbor View Road, Suite 3
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
941-764-4340
Fax: 941-764-4343
Master.gardener@charlottefl.com

Visit our statewide website at:
http://hort.ufl.edu/mg

The Cooperative Extension Service is a partnership between the University of Florida and your local county government.

What Is A Charlotte County Master Gardener?
What Is A Master Gardener?

Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who provide the public with gardening programs and activities that draw on the horticultural research and experience of the University of Florida. Each Master Gardener receives research-based instruction in all areas of home horticulture and is kept up-to-date with the latest developments in home horticulture from IFAS/University of Florida Extension. In return, Master Gardeners volunteer an equivalent number of hours sharing their knowledge and experience with interested gardeners in the community. Charlotte County’s Master Gardener Program, along with similar programs in other counties in Florida, is directly linked to the University of Florida as part of its National Land Grant College charter. It is this tie to the University of Florida that provides Master Gardeners with state-of-the-art gardening knowledge.

How Do Master Gardeners Contribute to Their Community?

Master Gardeners have many opportunities to contribute to their community and many platforms from which to do it.

- **Plant Clinics** held at various places around the county including libraries, Home Depot, Publix on a varied schedule.
- **Plant Lifeline** held three days a week from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM to answer questions either phoned in or personal visits to the Extension office.
- **Demonstrations Gardens** currently in Punta Gorda and a new one being designed at the Extension Office.
- **Education Committee** designs and produces Community Symposia and Clinics throughout the year and also provides speakers for clubs and organized meetings.
- **Florida Yards and Neighborhoods** program to help homeowners with Florida-Friendly landscaping.
- **Special Events** such as Arbor Day sales, Tree sales, Rain Barrel sales, Nature Festivals, etc.

What is the Master Gardener Program?

The Master Gardener Program is a national program of trained volunteers who work in partnership with their county Extension office to extend horticultural information throughout the community. The first Master Gardener program was started in Washington State in 1972.

In Charlotte County, Florida, Master Gardener Trainees receive a course of training for approximately 3 months. Upon graduation, volunteers are expected to perform 50 hours of volunteer time in the venue of their choosing, plus 12 hours of continuing education, provided free by the Extension Office throughout the year.

Master Gardeners meet once a month to keep updated on the different committees’ status/agendas, activities available, training opportunities and to socialize.

7/30/06