

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sign up now for Master Gardener Certification Training set to start Aug. 19

Fort Myers, FL, July 18, 2016 — The UF/IFAS Lee County Extension Service office will conduct the next Master Gardener training on Fridays beginning Aug. 19 through Nov. 18. This 13-week comprehensive course will offer students thorough training on basic botany, agriculture, horticulture and on the principles of Florida's unique and delicate ecology. The panel of presenters includes University of Florida faculty, experienced Master Gardener mentors, and qualified professionals from industry and government.

Graduates go on to join experienced Master Gardeners to provide volunteer service in Lee County. Certified Master Gardeners work through their county Extension office to educate Floridians and provide research-based information on pertinent horticultural and agro-ecological issues. Master Gardeners fulfill their volunteer hours in a variety of ways, including:

- Answering horticultural questions over the phone, in person or through a regular newspaper column
- Participating in community and school garden projects
- Giving educational programs to the public
- Supporting youth activities
- Performing soil sample evaluations
- Speaking at conferences and workshops
- Certifying Florida-friendly yards through the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program

Persons interested in becoming a member of the 2016 Cohort should fill out the application at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/HorticultureElectronicForm/MGApplication.pdf> and email fbeckford@leegov.com or mail the completed form to Master Gardener Training 2016, UF/IFAS Extension, 3410 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33916. The selection committee will follow up additional information including payment details.

Lee County Extension agents offer educational services through a three-way cooperative arrangement between the Lee County Board of County Commissioners, the University of Florida and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Local extension agents are off-campus faculty members of the University of Florida and are housed within Lee County's Parks & Recreation Department.