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Mark Keaton's Extension News: How to become a Master Gardener

Do you want to be a Master Gardener? Applications are being accepted in Baxter and Marion Counties for people who want to sharpen horticultural skills and share the knowledge with others.

The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service Master Gardener training program is set 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 17-18, Nov. 23-24 and Dec. 9 at Baxter County Fairgrounds. Books and other materials are furnished. There is a \$55 fee to help cover cost of the training such as notebooks, nametag, refreshments, etc. Two may attend and share one notebook for \$80. Application deadline is Nov. 2, or when the class is full.

Participation is limited. Those who complete the training and receive Master Gardener certification will volunteer 40 hours back to the Cooperative Extension Service in the areas of horticulture and ornamental horticulture.

Training begins with an overview of the Master Gardener program and instruction of basic botany, soils, fertilizers and turf. Other training sessions include vegetable production, ornamentals, home fruit production, pest control, pesticide use, plant diseases and beekeeping. Training will be by Cooperative Extension Service professionals and Master Gardeners.

Mark Keaton is staff chair for Baxter County at UA Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service. Call him at 425-2335.