

Extension Master Gardenersm Certification Agreement

This document seeks to clarify expectations of EMG's and is essential in order to be covered by NC State University liability protection. Upon completion of the core training and passing the final exam, each participant (referred to as an Extension Master Gardener Intern) in the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Master Gardenersm program begins a 40 hour internship of volunteer service and learning. Upon completion of the volunteer service, participants become certified as an Extension Master Gardenersm. Certification is valid for one year.

- Volunteers will perform their duties as representatives of NC State University, will follow university policies, and work under the supervision of an NC State University employee.
- Volunteers will perform assigned duties without financial compensation or workman's compensation coverage. Payment should not be requested for speaking engagements or other activities.
- Volunteers are expected to work with other volunteers, paid staff and clientele in a professional manner.
- Volunteers are to provide unbiased, research based information consistent with NC State University recommendations.
- No recommendations or endorsements should be made of a particular product or place of business. Volunteers should not use their title or position for commercial or private business.
- Both chemical and cultural recommendations should be given so clientele can make an informed decision concerning pest management.
- Chemical pesticide recommendations are restricted to only those in the N. C. Agricultural Chemicals Manual, recent Extension publications, or pesticide labeling. It is illegal to use or to recommend the use of a pesticide that is inconsistent with the pesticide labeling (label on the product, attached material and any additional printed material provided by the chemical company). Clients should be encouraged to read the pesticide labeling instead of providing application or dilution rates.
- Volunteers should not answer questions outside their expertise or training. This normally would include not answering questions concerning household pests, commercial horticulture, hazardous tree evaluation, medical or legal questions, and determining if a questionable plant or mushroom is edible.
- Printed materials (news articles, news releases, newsletters, leaflets) prepared by a volunteer must be reviewed and approved by the Extension agent and/or the appropriate subject matter Extension specialist or State EMG coordinator.

- Requests for information by newspaper reporters should be referred to the Extension agent.
- Possible poisoning cases should be referred to the Carolina's Poison Center (1-800-848-6946).
- Volunteers should not make copies of copyrighted material for distribution without written permission of the copyright owner.
- Volunteers do not have the authority to sign contracts on behalf of Cooperative Extension or the EMG program.
- Presenting oneself as a EMG in an unauthorized role and attempting to implement management/policy decisions that are inconsistent or in direct violation of EMG program policies are considered serious policy violations.
- Displays of discriminatory behavior (race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, handicap, sexual orientation), sexual harassment, alcohol and/or drug use, or possession of a dangerous weapon while on the job are grounds for immediate dismissal.

Recertification

Volunteers that wish to continue in the program (after completion of their first year/40 hours) may be extended an invitation to become recertified by signing a Recertification Agreement. Volunteers that do not renew their commitment will be referred to as an Alumnus of the Extension Master Gardenersm program.

Individuals not renewing their certification (or those dismissed from or who fail to complete the program) should not refer to themselves as a Master Gardenersm, Master Gardener Volunteersm, Master Gardener Trainee, Master Gardener Intern, or an Extension Master Gardener Volunteersm or any similar title that could be perceived as being a representative of Cooperative Extension or NC State University. The EMG name tag should no longer be used in a public setting. EMG certificates should not be displayed outside of the individual's home.

I have read and agree to abide by the above policies regarding my service as an Extension Master Gardenersm volunteer. I understand that I am committing to completing 40 hours of volunteer service to the NC Cooperative Extension's McDowell County Center.

Master Gardenersm Trainee

County Extension Agent

Date

Date