



**NEWS RELEASE**

*For immediate release*

**MASTER GARDENERS TO CONDUCT NEW VOLUNTEER TRAINING  
LEARN ABOUT THE TRAINING ON OCTOBER 27, 2022**

The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) invites adults interested in helping others learn about gardening to apply to train as a Master Gardener volunteer. UCCE Master Gardener volunteers learn University-based scientific information and then share that knowledge with the gardening community. Master Gardener volunteers are people of all ages and from all walks of life with a common desire to help others learn about gardening.

Master Gardener membership is open to any adult in Calaveras and Tuolumne counties. A background check including fingerprinting is required to become a Master Gardener.

An Information Session has been scheduled for Thursday, October 27, starting at 3:00 at the Tuolumne County Senior Center located at 540 Greenley Road, Sonora, 95370.

The Master Gardener Training will be a hybrid model, including recorded lectures, reading material and in-person labs. The training classes for new volunteer candidates begin Thursday, January 19, 2023 and continue weekly through April 27th. These classes will include over 50 hours of intensive training by University of California personnel and horticulture specialists in various fields. Topics include water management, soils, composting, native plants, fruit production, plant diseases, entomology, Integrated Pest Management, understanding pesticides and more.

A fee of \$195 will be charged to cover the cost of all class materials, which includes several reference texts. After successfully completing the training program, certified Master Gardener volunteers agree to fulfill annual volunteer service and continuing education requirements. If there is room, training will also be offered at the professional rate of \$350. At the professional rate, there are no volunteer requirements.

For more information, contact the University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Coordinator by email. The email address is [dlpowell@ucanr.edu](mailto:dlpowell@ucanr.edu).

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The University of California working in cooperation with County Government and the United States Department of Agriculture.