

Colorado Master Gardenersm Program
Colorado Gardener Certificate Training
Colorado State University Extension



Colorado Master Gardenersm Program
Colorado Gardener Certificate Training
2017 Application and Training Information

Thank you for your interest in the *Colorado Master Gardener Program* (CMG) and *Colorado Gardener Certificate Training*. Enclosed is information about the two programs and application materials.

Application deadline in Weld County: Friday - October 28th, 2016

Email application as attachment to: Amy Lentz at alentz@co.weld.co.us

Mail application to: Amy Lentz
525 North 15th Avenue
Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 400-2073

Training location: Larimer County Fairgrounds in Loveland or Island Grove Park, Greeley (depending on class date)

Training dates: January 13th through March 31st, 2017 on Fridays, 9 am to 4 pm

For additional information, contact: Amy Lentz
525 North 15th Avenue
Greeley, CO 80631
alentz@co.weld.co.us
(970) 400-2073

Tuition and Educational Materials

A textbook or printed information obtained online is required in one of the following forms. It is up to you to decide the form, acquire it prior to class and be prepared for class each day. Student options for course materials include the following:

1. Download and print the class materials and handouts from the Colorado Master Gardener website: www.cmg.colostate.edu/GardenNotesUpdate.shtml
Some counties may have wireless connectivity in the classroom if you do not wish to print the handouts, but prefer to view them online; please check with the local county for specifics.
2. The textbook is The Science of Gardening by Kendall Hunt Publishing: <http://www.kendallhunt.com/whiting/>

- Purchase print copy of the textbook from Kendall Hunt
- Electronic Delivery Ebook (permanent purchase) from Kendall Hunt
- Electronic Delivery Ebook (6 month purchase) from Kendall Hunt

	Tuition only
Colorado Master Gardener Program Volunteer Do not send payment, you will be billed if selected as a CMG volunteer.	\$170
Colorado Mater Gardener receiving Limited Income Scholarship Do not send payment. You will be billed if selected as a CMG volunteer and selected to receive a scholarship.	\$85
Colorado Gardener Certificate (non-volunteer) Send payment with registration form.	\$530

CMG / CGC Training

In Weld County, training is held on Fridays for 12 weeks, starting January 13th, 2017.

Class periods are 6-hours per day, 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Classes are taught by CSU Extension campus-based and county-based faculty. Class information is focused toward the non-commercial, home gardener. Topics may include the following:

CMG Program – 1 hour online

- Plant Health Care and the Diagnostic Process (half day)
- How Plants Grow (basic botany) (full day)
- Soils, Soil Amendments, and Fertilizers (full day)
- Introduction to Plant Pathology (plant diseases) (full day)
- Introduction to Entomology (insects) (full day)
- Lawn Care and Diagnosing Lawn Problems (full day)
- The Science of Planting Trees and Tree Care (full day)
- Weed Management (full day)

To complete the 60 hours of classroom training, counties will schedule additional classes. Please see the 2017 schedule.

Participants are expected to attend the 60 hours of training. However, that is not always possible due to illness, family emergencies, and weather-related travel issues. When missing a class, the student is responsible for the content and should invest extra time with the study materials. Make-up of a class at another location/date is not an option. Some class units may be picked-up from ***CMG Online***.

To complete the training as a CMG Volunteer or *Colorado Gardener Certificate Student*, participants **must complete homework and attend at least nine out of ten class days.**

College credit is not available for CMG/CGC training, as the course does not have the routine exams and written assignments of a course for credit.

Colorado Gardener Certificate

Individuals interested in the Colorado Master Gardener training without a volunteer commitment may enroll for the coursework under the ***Colorado Gardener Certificate*** option. The course work is available for a higher fee in-lieu-of the return service.

Upon completion of the course, CGC students receive the ***Colorado Gardener Certificate***. However, without the volunteer commitment, participants do not become *Colorado Master Gardeners*.

The *Colorado Gardener Certificate* may be displayed in a place of business and used in business marketing. The *Colorado Gardener Certificate* is also given to CMG volunteers upon completion of the class and 50 hours minimum volunteer commitment.

To receive the *Colorado Gardener Certificate*, students must satisfactorily complete the CMG training (i.e., complete homework and attend at least 90% of classes). Participants are expected to attend all training sessions. However, that is not always possible due to illness, family emergencies, and weather-related travel issues. When missing a class, the student is responsible for the content and should invest extra time with the study materials.

Individuals not selected for the CMG volunteer program may enroll in the Colorado Gardener Certificate Training.

Tuition and Textbook

Tuition for the course as a *Colorado Gardener Certificate Student* (non-volunteer) is \$530 plus the text materials. Options for course materials include the following:

1. Downloading and printing classroom handouts and materials online at www.cmg.colostate.edu/GardenNotesUpdate.shtml
2. Purchase print copy of the textbook, *The Science of Gardening* by David Whiting, Kendall Hunt publishing
3. Purchase or rent (for 6 months) Ebook from Kendall Hunt Publishing. <http://www.kendallhunt.com/whiting/>

Scholarships are not available for CGC Students.

The CMG/CGC training is equivalent to a four-credit class. In comparison, tuition for an instate resident, undergraduate, four-credit class at CSU is \$1,885.

CGC Enrollment

To enroll in the *Colorado Gardener Certificate* training, send in the ***Colorado Gardener Certification Enrollment Form*** with the tuition (\$530). Space is limited and available on a first come (paying) basis.

The Colorado Master Gardenersm Program

Colorado Master Gardener (CMG) volunteers assist the county office of Colorado State University Extension to extend research-based information on home yard care and gardening into the community. *Colorado Master Gardeners* are involved in a wide variety of ways, including assisting with office phone calls and walk-in customers, staffing information booths and diagnostic clinics, writing for local newspapers, mentoring youth groups and community gardening and greening projects.

Colorado Master Gardeners enjoy sharing gardening knowledge and networking with other garden enthusiasts.

The title "*Colorado Master Gardener*" is a registered service mark of Colorado State University Extension. It may be used only in conjunction with official CSU Extension activities. It may not be used to infer credentials or otherwise imply endorsement of a private business. It may not be used on marketing materials of a business.

For additional background on the CMG program, refer to the web site at www.cmg.colostate.edu.

To become a "Colorado Master Gardener" participants must:

1. Apply to and be accepted into a county/area CMG program.
2. Training: Satisfactorily complete the CMG training course (i.e., completes homework assignments and attends at least 90% of class sessions).
3. Volunteer service: Continue the learning experience with 50 hours minimum return volunteer service in the county CMG program.

Individuals who fail to complete the volunteer work by October 31st will be billed \$15 for each uncompleted hour, up to a maximum of \$500.

After the training year, 24 hours minimum volunteer service and 12 hours of continuing education, per year, are required to continue in the program.

4. Turn in reports (processed on-line or by paper).

CMG Application Process

CMG programs operate at the county level, with primary support from the county government. Applicants should generally apply to their home county. In special situations (such as the work location versus the home location), a potential volunteer may apply to a neighboring county. However, it should be understood that counties give priority to county residents, being responsive to the local county budget and taxpayers. Applicants who apply to multiple counties will not be considered.

The program requires that the volunteer work be completed for the county/area program for which the applicant applied. For example, an application to the Weld County CMG program necessitates that the volunteer work be completed FOR the Weld County CMG program.

Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. Colorado State University does not discriminate based on race, age, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, gender, disability, veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

Students requesting handicap accommodations should directly contact the *CSU Resources of Disabled Students Office* at 970-491-6385.

Steps in the CMG application process

1. **Contact your county office of CSU Extension** for program information and application form.

2. **Submit a completed CMG application form** by the application deadline. The application form asks for the following items:

- Background information on volunteer experiences
- Background information on gardening experience
- General availability for volunteer work (used by program coordinators to help connect CMG volunteers with projects)
- Interest in CMG projects
- Contact information for three references

The application includes a signed volunteer agreement committing the CMG volunteer to 50 hours minimum volunteer work in exchange for the training.

3. **Background Check** – Colorado State University requires background checks, including driver’s license checks, of all new volunteers. A criminal record or poor driving record does not bar an individual as a volunteer, but will be considered as it relates to the specifics of the volunteer position.

The potential volunteer receives an e-mail from the CSU Human Resources with a hotlink to the screening company, *HireRight*.

The volunteer logs into a secure site, enters their social security number, answers some questions about where they have lived, etc. and logs off. The university’s IT department has confidence in the security and confidentiality of the HireRight system.

HireRight conducts a national background check, including driver’s license check, and shares the results with CSU Human Resources. Applications cannot be accepted into the program until CSU Human resources give approval based on the background check.

If the applicant elects to ignore the email from CSU Human Resources or elects to not provide HireRight with the needed information, they also elect not be considered as a CSU volunteer.

If the applicant does not receive the email from CSU Human Resources with the link for HireRight within 3 BUSINESS DAYS of submitting your application, please call the

Extension Office so staff can check on the situation. (Depending on your email filters, it may be found in the junk mail box or blocked in your email system.)

If you do not have email, contact your County Extension Office to process the background check forms by mail.

4. **Preliminary screening** will begin with the application form. Primary consideration is based on:

- 1) Interest in volunteer work
- 2) Availability for volunteer work
- 3) People skills (i.e., ability to assist Extension in home horticulture educational efforts), and
- 4) Gardening experience.

Staff will send confidential reference letters or emails to the references listed on the application.

At least two must be returned before the applicant can be accepted into the CMG program.

5. **Interview** – Some counties invite applicants in for an informal interview giving the applicant a chance to learn more about the CMG Program and ask questions about training and volunteer work.

6. **Applicants will be advised if they were selected for the CMG Program.** In counties with a larger population base, significantly more people apply than can be accommodated. Applicants who are not selected as CMG volunteers may elect to enroll as *Colorado Gardener Certificate Students* (non-volunteer enrollment).

7. **Pay program fees** – If accepted into a local CMG Program, payment of program fees is the final enrollment step.

In summary, interested individuals apply to become a CMG volunteer representing CSU Extension. The decision to accept or not accept any individual as a CMG volunteers is the right of CSU Extension.

Additionally, CMG volunteers serve at the request of Colorado State University Extension. This request can be withdrawn at any time.

Tuition

Tuition as a CMG volunteer is \$170. Refer to details about class material options found earlier in this document.

In comparison, the Colorado Master Gardener/Colorado Gardener Certificate Training is comparable to a four-credit class. CSU Tuition for a four-credit class is \$1,885 plus fees and books.

Scholarships

Scholarships are available for individuals on limited incomes. (Refer to application for details.) **Fees for CMG Volunteers who are selected to receive a scholarship are \$85**, with the student purchasing or printing the textbook or class handouts.

A limited number of scholarships are available in a county. Selection of scholarship recipients will be based on CMG selection criteria.

As a CMG volunteer applicant, do not send fees with the application. If you are selected for the program, you will be billed.

Colorado Gardener Certificate **Student Enrollment Form - 2017**

Name (as you want it on the certificate) _____

Name you go by: _____

E-mail: _____

Address:

Street Address: _____

City, State, and Zip Code _____

Home phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

Are you employed in the Green Industry?

No

Yes; what is your job? _____

If you are applying as a Colorado Gardener Certificate trainee (non-volunteer), complete this page only and submit with your payment of \$530.

Mail application and payment to:

Amy Lentz

525 North 15th Avenue

Greeley, CO 80631

alentz@co.weld.co.us

(970) 400-2073

Tuition* and Fees

A textbook or printed information obtained online is required in one of the following forms. It is up to you to decide the form, acquire it prior to class and be prepared for class each day.

1. Download and print the class materials and handouts from the Colorado Master Gardener website: www.cmg.colostate.edu/GardenNotesUpdate.shtml
 - a. Some counties may have wireless connectivity in the classroom if you do not wish to print the handouts, but prefer to view them online; please check with the local county for specifics.
2. The textbook is *The Science of Gardening* by Kendall Hunt Publishing: www.kendallhunt.com
 - o **Print copy of the textbook** – \$113.46 plus tax and shipping from Kendall Hunt Publishing
 - o **Electronic Delivery Ebook** (permanent purchase)– \$113.46 plus tax; Purchased from Kendall Hunt Publishing
 - o **Electronic Delivery Ebook (6 month purchase)**--\$90.76 plus tax; Purchased from Kendall Hunt Publishing

Cost to apply as a Colorado Gardener Certificate student is \$530; enclose check with registration form.

Make check payable to: Weld County Extension

Class size is limited on a first come (and paid) basis.

The *Colorado Gardener Certificate* may be displayed in a place of business and the title may be used in business marketing.

*In comparison, the Colorado Master Gardener/Colorado Gardener Certificate Training is comparable to a four-credit class. CSU Tuition for a four-credit class is \$1,885.