



HISTORY:

In the 1970's, the Seattle extension office trained volunteers to help answer an ever-increasing volume of horticulture calls on their hotline. They gave a course of about 70 hours at the nearby university. They asked the graduates to volunteer a certain number of hours each year for ongoing learning. There's now a Master Gardener Association in every state and in Canada. Local groups in each state can be organized as an association or as a simple group.

NEW MEXICO:

NM boasts Master Gardener Associations in 11 counties. Our first state conference was in 2000; now it's an annual event. Each year, we see our program growing and flourishing in New Mexico.

SANTA FE:

County Agent Patrick Torres directs our Extension Office, which has offered the Master Gardener course every spring for several years. The SFMGA seed was planted in 1998 for the growth of ongoing learning after the completed course. We're the volunteer branch of the County Agent in horticultural outreach.

REQUIREMENTS:

To be certified, an intern must complete the course and 30 hours of volunteer service. At least 12 of the 30 hours must involve *public contact*, which may involve either the hotline or an information booth.

A certified member receives a *Certified Master Gardener* name tag. Continued certification involves 25 hours of volunteer service per year, of which at least 6 must involve *public contact*.

COURSE INFORMATION:

Our course begins in January and runs through the end of April. You'll find class schedules on our website, www.sfmga.org, and with your application acceptance letter. NMSU specialists teach our classes: most of them are PhD and Master level graduates.

We mail application forms in late November. Complete and return yours by late December. Include a check for \$150. The course notebook is a valuable reference to course topics you see listed on this brochure.

The Santa Fe Extension Office phone number is 471-4711. Ask that your name be placed on a waiting list for next year's course.

Join us!

We look forward to hearing from you!

STILL NOT CONVINCED?

We're here because we enjoy getting our hands dirty! Our projects change over the seasons. Here are a few ways you might share your gardening passions with fellow gardeners and with the Santa Fe Community:

- Native Plant Garden at the Randall Davey Audubon Center
- Water-efficient plants demonstration garden
- Herb garden
- Home gardening hotline
- Las Golondrinas Gardening Laboratories
- Gardening information booths
- Habitat for Humanity plantings
- Olla test garden

Any of these tickle your fancy?

You'll enjoy meeting fellow gardeners from Santa Fe and all over New Mexico.



GARDENING HOTLINE
MAY THROUGH OCTOBER 471-6251
9AM-12 Mondays and Saturdays
www.SFMGA.org