

Montgomery County Master Gardeners Continuing Education Policy

To remain active, a Montgomery County Master Gardener must complete 20 hours of volunteer service (**note new number**) and 10 hours of advanced training each year. Because of the cancellation of the May university campus training day again this year, MGs are considering their options for advanced training. Here are a few:

- Attend the lecture at the monthly meeting. Master Gardeners are allowed one hour of Continuing Education credit for attending the speaker portion of the MG monthly meeting, even if the speaker portion exceeds one hour. Attending the MG monthly meeting does not count as volunteer service.
- Attend the MG fall conference.
- Take a horticulture class at Montgomery College.
- Look into advanced training offered by the Home and Garden Information Center.
- Attend lectures at the MG intern training program at Derwood.
- Check out the continuing education webinars, online classes and other events at the University of Maryland Extension (MG Volunteer Resources page).
- Read the Continuing Education column in *The Seed* each month for training opportunities at Meadowside Nature Center, Brookside Gardens, Audubon Naturalist Society, local nurseries, etc. Education items listed in *The Seed* are pre-approved, including webinars and podcasts.

MG Webinar/Podcast Policy

Webinars are a great option for getting continuing education hours, but be sure they meet the Master Gardener webinar policies:

1. The subject matter must be relevant to the field of horticulture, and be close to meeting our mission statement.
2. The program must last a minimum of 30 minutes, for which you would earn 30 minutes of continuing education credit. A one-hour program earns an hour of credit, and so on.
3. The source must be an educational or governmental organization (for example, the University of Maryland, Penn State University, Maryland Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, or Environmental Protection Agency).
4. The webinar must be pre-approved by the State (HGIC) or by the local Master Gardener coordinator.

Our Mission: To support the University of Maryland Extension mission by educating residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.

At least five of the required 10 continuing education hours must be earned in a face-to-face format such as meetings, seminars or workshops (i.e. not webinars or podcasts).

When entering your continuing education hours in the VMS (Volunteer Management System), you must include both the topic and the sponsoring organization of the educational event in your Description or else the item will not be approved.

If you have a question about whether a webinar or podcast qualifies for continuing education credit, contact Steve Dubik, Master Gardener Coordinator, sdubik@umd.edu

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