

“Advanced Master Gardener - Earth-Kind®” Training Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services

Advanced Training Program Purpose and information:

The “Advanced Master Gardener - Earth-Kind®” program is designed to provide advanced training and resources whereby Master Gardeners can obtain specialization in areas that support or expand designated educational programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services.

To become a certified “Advanced Master Gardener – Earth-Kind®”, Master Gardeners are required to attend the “Advanced Master Gardener - Earth-Kind®” training and subsequently meet service requirements described below. This certification does not empower the individual with supervisory or administrative authority within her/his local county programs.

“Advanced Master Gardener - Earth-Kind®” training will be comprised of high-quality training combined with hands-on experience in the principles and practices of Earth-Kind®, environmental site selection; soil preparation; plant selection; planting and maintenance; and pest and disease management, innovative landscape design, plus introduction to new and novel plants.

Participation requirements:

To be eligible for the “Advanced Master Gardener - Earth-Kind®” training, an individual must possess an up-to-date Master Gardener certification, or be an employee of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Master Gardener applicants must be approved by their local County Extension Agent.

Position Description and Service Requirements:

The “Advanced Master Gardener - Earth-Kind®” is charged to increase awareness, provide training in Earth-Kind® and facilitate implementation of Earth-Kind® practices on a home/neighborhood/community level. Training activities during the course will empower the Master Gardener to complete these service requirements.

Service requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Attending the “Advanced Master Gardener - Earth-Kind®” training
- Volunteering 20 hours above and beyond the county’s current volunteer obligation within one year of the advanced training
- Serving as a local “Advanced Master Gardener - Earth-Kind®” resource in the Extension program for a minimum of one year
- Assisting in educating Master Gardeners, interns, and the public in Earth-Kind® practices
- Increasing client awareness of Earth-Kind® practices through presentations, training, and mass media efforts (i.e. radio, newspaper, social media, television, and newsletters)
- Submitting a completed “Advanced Master Gardener - Earth-Kind®” Volunteer Training Report Form as directed
- Optional: Submitting TMGA reimbursement paperwork

Advanced Training recognition and certification:

Upon completion of the “Advanced Master Gardener – Earth-Kind®” training and service requirements, the Master Gardener will be awarded an “Advanced Master Gardener – Earth-Kind®” certificate and lapel pin.

Resources available to the “Advanced Master Gardener - Earth-Kind®:

- Advanced training on Earth-Kind® principles and networking with presenters
- Educational materials on Earth-Kind® principles
- Direct access to the Texas A&M Extension Services County Extension Agent – Horticulture and program specialist