

## **“Advanced Master Gardener - Irrigation Efficiency” Training Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services**

### **Advanced Training Program Purpose and information:**

The “Advanced Master Gardener - Irrigation Efficiency” 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 - Irrigation Efficiency”, Master Gardeners are required to attend the “Advanced Master Gardener - Irrigation Efficiency” 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.

Automatic irrigation systems are a convenient method to irrigate and maintain landscape beauty and investment. However, most homeowners tend to overwater their landscapes causing plant diseases and creating runoff. Runoff waste valuable potable water, strains water treatment plants and supplies, and contaminates water resources. Irrigation efficiency and other landscape water conservation practices are the keys to protecting water resources, maintaining a beautiful landscape and extending your community's water supply. Water conservation is the least expensive method to make water resources sustainable.

Most homeowners increase water usage during the summer by 35 to 70%. Homeowners do not want to waste water, cause pollution or increase their water bill but most homeowners just do not know how to determine how long to run their irrigation system, how to set and reset their irrigation controller for different seasons, detect leaks and fix common irrigation problems.

“Advanced Master Gardener – Irrigation Efficiency” training will cover hands-on practices for determining irrigation efficiency, setting controllers, soak and cycle method, minor irrigation repairs, system trouble shooting, catch-can test, converting spray nozzles to new water conserving multi-stream nozzles, converting spray irrigation to drip irrigation and other water conservation practices.

### **Participation requirements:**

To be eligible for the “Advanced Master Gardener – Irrigation” 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 - Irrigation Efficiency” is charged to increase awareness, provide training in irrigation efficiency and facilitate implementation of correct watering 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 - Irrigation Efficiency” 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 – Irrigation Efficiency” resource in the Extension program for a minimum of one year

- Assisting in educating Master Gardeners, interns, and the public in irrigation efficiency
- Increasing client awareness of irrigation efficiency through presentations, training, and mass media efforts (i.e. radio, newspaper, social media, television, and newsletters)
- Submitting a completed “Advanced Master Gardener - Irrigation Efficiency” Training Volunteer Report Form as directed
- Optional: Submitting TMGA reimbursement paperwork

**Advanced Training recognition and certification:**

Upon completion of the “Advanced Master Gardener – Irrigation Efficiency” training and service requirements, the Master Gardener will be awarded an “Advanced Master Gardener – Irrigation Efficiency” certificate and lapel pin.

**Resources Available to the “Advanced Master Gardener: Irrigation Efficiency”:**

- Advanced training on irrigation efficiency and networking with presenters
- Educational materials on irrigation efficiency
- Direct access to AgriLife Program Specialist and Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent – Horticulture