



## **Advanced Master Gardener Program**

The Advanced Master Gardener Program is a University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service Program. It was developed in conjunction with the Alaska Master Gardener Association Anchorage Education Committee.

The program is intended to meet the needs of Master Gardeners who would like to increase their knowledge of horticulture subjects beyond the basic Master Gardener Program course.

### **Prerequisites:**

To qualify for the Advanced Master Gardener Program, one must first be an **Alaska** Master Gardener, and have completed their initial 40 hours of volunteer service.

### **Requirements:**

The Advanced Master Gardener Program consists of a Core Course of instruction, plus 15 hours of Volunteer Service Hours (VSH), Continuing Education Units (CEU), or a combination of the two.

#### The Core Course:

The Core consists of advanced horticulture topics that go beyond the basic Master Gardener course. It varies in length from year to year depending on the topic.

#### Continuing Education Units (CEU):

CEU hours can be earned in many ways. Some examples are: attending horticulture educational programs such as conferences, garden club meetings, presentations, garden tours and workshops. Other options may also be approved. If you find an educational opportunity you would like to use as a CEU but are not sure it will count, please contact the AMGA Education Committee Chair or Julie Riley.

Typically, CEU hours will be credited on an hour-per-hour basis. For example, if a garden club meeting has an educational presentation that lasts 45 minutes, your CEU for that meeting will be 45 minutes. Please do not count social time as educational time.

#### Volunteer Service Hours (VSH)

The volunteer commitment for the Advanced Master Gardener Program is very flexible and can be met by providing educational programs or working on service projects. Possible service examples are: MG Board membership (1 hour of meeting time = 1 hour of volunteer credit), Pioneer Home garden bed maintenance, MG committee participation (1 hour of committee work =

1 hour of volunteer credit), and other venues on approval. If you have a special volunteer project you would like to count for your hours, and you are not sure it is appropriate, please contact the AMGA Education Committee Chair or Julie Riley.

***Please be sure to record all volunteer hours over and above those that are required. These hours are also reported for the MG Program, and help in determining CES funding.***

Reporting your volunteer hours and attendance at educational opportunities will be on the honor system, and is necessary to advance to the next level. It will be up to you to keep track of, record, and submit your hours.

Submission Forms:

- Volunteer Hours/CEU Submission Form
- Special Consideration Request Form

**Advanced Master Gardener Achievement:**

Master Gardeners will receive a Certificate of Achievement and an Advanced Master Gardener name badge upon successful completion of all the requirements at the October AMGA general meeting.

*Please note that the CEU and/or VSH reporting form must be completed and submitted to the Education Committee by September 1 of the year following the Core Course.*

**Further Advanced Master Gardener Training:**

Once you achieve Advanced Master Gardener status, you can begin to advance to higher levels by continuing to participate in the yearly educational Core Course, and completing the CEU and/or VSH requirements.

**In a nut shell—this is how it will work:**

Advanced Master Gardener

1. Must be a Master Gardener, including completion of 40 volunteer hours.
2. Successfully complete an Advanced Master Gardener Core.
3. Successfully complete 15 additional CEU and/or VSH hours.

Advanced Master Gardener II

1. Must be an Advanced Master Gardener.
2. Successfully complete an additional AMG Core.
3. Successfully complete 15 additional CEU and/or VSH hours.

Advanced Master Gardener III

1. Must be an Advanced Master Gardener II.
2. Successfully complete an additional AMG Core.
3. Successfully complete 15 additional CEU and/or VSH hours.

Upon each successful completion of a Core Course + CEU and/or VSH hours, you will advance to the next level.