Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the UConn Extension Master Gardener Program. Students enrolled in this program receive training in an extensive range of horticultural and environmental topics, including botany, plant pathology, entomology, integrated pest management (IPM), herbaceous and woody ornamentals, edibles, turf grass, invasive plants, and diagnostic techniques for the home gardener.

Following formal classroom instruction, Master Gardener students receive hands-on training in the Extension offices or the Bartlett Arboretum; they are supervised in researching a broad range of horticultural questions, including identifying insects and plants, diagnosing plant diseases, and providing sound cultural recommendations. In addition, interns engage in a wide range of community outreach projects. Examples include community gardens, horticultural therapy, educational booths for programs ranging from Earth Day celebrations to county fairs, and working with the CT Invasive Plant Working Group, just to name a few.

The Master Gardener program is a service-oriented program developed to help Extension educators answer questions from, and assist, non-commercial gardeners. This program has a strong focus on volunteerism and educational outreach and enhances UConn’s horticultural education offerings statewide.

Enclosed please find information on the application process as well as the application form, program requirements, class locations, and fee. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact your local county coordinator (see page 6) or me.

Best wishes,

Leslie Alexander
State Coordinator
UConn Extension Master Gardener Program

"An Equal Opportunity Employer and Program Provider"
2016 UConn Master Gardener Program

APPLICATION PROCESS

- A completed application must be postmarked by Friday, November 6, 2015, and submitted to the location where you wish to take classes; either at one of the County Extension Offices or the Bartlett Arboretum. Please see the list of locations on page 6.
- Letters of acceptance will be mailed by Friday, November 20, 2015.
- If accepted into the program, payment in the form of a check or money order for $425.00 must be postmarked no later than Friday, December 4, 2015.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- 100+ hours formal classroom training. Classroom training occurs one day per week for 16 weeks, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, January – April 2016 at one of five locations.
- 60 hours of in-service training at one of nine locations (County Extension Offices or the Bartlett Arboretum)

COURSE WORK

- Written open-book exam at the end of classroom training
- Tree/Shrub/Vine identification and research project must be completed by the end of August 2016
- Attendance at one of five summer diagnostic sessions
- Final practicum exam at the end of in-service training
- Final essay due at the end of September 2016

IN-SERVICE OFFICE AND OUTREACH

- A minimum of 30 in-office hours in the Master Gardener office at a UConn Extension Center or the Bartlett Arboretum during weekday business hours working with the public answering horticultural questions and researching gardening problems. This work will be under the supervision of a Master Gardener coordinator or volunteer mentor.
- 30 hours approved educational outreach and/or community project.
- Both in-service training and outreach projects must be completed by the end of September 2016.
2016 UConn Master Gardener Program Application

Classes will start on Monday, January 4, 2016
Type or print clearly, complete all data requested, attach additional sheets if necessary. This application must be postmarked no later than Friday, November 6, 2015.

Send it to the location where you wish to take your class (see page 6).

For further information, contact your county’s Master Gardener Program Coordinator.

Print or type:

Name _______________________________________________________________________

Street Address____________________________________________________________________

Town_____________________________ State_______________ ZIP_____________________

Phone: (H) ___________________ (W) ___________________ (C) ___________________
(circle preferred number)

Email___________________________________ (print clearly as all further notifications regarding the program will be sent via email.)

Employment History
Are you currently employed? Yes ___ No_____ 

Employer__________________________ Position _________________________________ 

Address____________________________________________________________________

Full time _____________ Part time ______________ Seasonal ______________

Is this a garden center, greenhouse, and/or landscape firm, etc.? Yes___ No___

If no longer working, what was your profession?

Education
High School # years _______ Technical/Business # years _______ College # years _______

Major ______________________ Degree(s) ____________________________________________

Do you use a computer? Yes _____ No _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name____________________________ Address: _________________________________________

Phone (H) _______ (w) _______ (c) _______ Relationship___________________________
Have you ever applied to the UConn Master Gardener Program before? Yes_____ No_____

This initial Master Gardener volunteer training requires a nine-month commitment leading to certification. It can be the gateway to a fulfilling on-going volunteer experience.

Are you available **weekdays between the hours of 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM May through September** to fulfill the required 30-hour office outreach requirement?

Yes_____ No_____ 

How did you learn about the UConn Master Gardener Program?

Have you ever been certified by any other horticultural program? If so, which one(s)?

**Volunteer/Community Experience**

An essential element of the UConn Extension Master Gardener program is working with and helping others in the community on a volunteer basis. Describe any community and/or volunteer experience(s) you have had (i.e. school, church, working with seniors or youth, parks, public office). These experiences need not be of a horticultural nature. If you have never had the opportunity to volunteer, please suggest an area where you would like to volunteer, now that you have the time.
Outreach

What type of work would you choose to do for your community outreach? Please check all that apply. *This is not a commitment, but rather a chance for us to determine students’ interests.*

- Work with community gardens
- Speak to groups
- Computer/Data Entry
- Write newsletter/newspaper articles
- Host plant clinics/MG booths
- Educational gardening
- Working with youth/specialty groups
- Other (please note)

ESSAY

Certified Master Gardener volunteers share their knowledge and experience with individuals and groups in the local gardening community. Write a short essay on why you wish to become a Certified Master Gardener volunteer. You can include life experiences that may enhance this program, how you see your involvement in community outreach, and any special qualities you might bring to the program. Please print or type. (250 words or less) You may use an additional sheet of paper if desired.
2016 Class Locations and Dates

The 2016 Master Gardener Program will be held in five locations throughout the state. Select the location and day that works best for you and check the location where you would like to take the program, indicating a 1st and 2nd choice on the line provided before the location.

Submit ONE application to your first choice of location at the address listed below. Submitting applications to multiple sites DOES NOT increase your chances for acceptance.

_______ MONDAY Class at The Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens, 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford, CT 06903
Coordinator:
- Regina Campfield (203) 322-6971 ext. 18, Mastergardener@bartlettarboretum.org

_______ TUESDAY Class at New London Extension Center, 562 New London Turnpike, Norwich, CT 06360
Coordinators:
- New London County – Susan Munger (860) 885-2823, susan.munger@uconn.edu
- Middlesex County – Gail Reynolds (860) 345-4511, gail.reynolds@uconn.edu

_______ WEDNESDAY Class at Litchfield Extension Center, 843 University Drive, Torrington, CT 06790
Coordinators:
- Litchfield County – David Lewis (860) 626-6240, david.lewis@uconn.edu
- Hartford County – Sarah Bailey (860) 570-9023, sarah.bailey@uconn.edu

_______ THURSDAY Class will be held at Edgerton Park, Hamden, CT
Send application to: New Haven Extension Center, 305 Skiff Street, North Haven, CT 06473
Coordinators:
- New Haven County – Judith Hsiang (203) 407-3167, judith.hsiang@uconn.edu
- Fairfield County - Julia Cencebaugh (203) 207-3261, Julia.cencebaugh_kloth@uconn.edu

_______ Friday Class at Tolland County Extension Center, 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT 06066
Coordinators:
- Tolland County – Deb Prior (860) 870-6934, deborah.prior@uconn.edu
- Windham County – Deb Lee (860) 774-9600, deborah.2.lee@uconn.edu
Enrollment in the UConn Extension Master Gardener program is limited and competitive. We may conduct telephone or personal interviews.

UConn requires a background check of all Extension volunteers due to potential involvement with children and youth. Upon acceptance you will receive the necessary form for completion prior to your outreach.

The Master Gardener Program periodically documents classes through photography and video for publicity purposes. Registration in the UConn Extension Master Gardener Program includes permission to photograph you and use your image in publicity materials unless you inform the photographer or coordinator that you do not wish to have your photograph taken.

Partial scholarships based on financial need may be available. Please check if you would like to receive a scholarship application. 

APPLICATION SUBMISSION/APPROVAL DEADLINES:

This application must be postmarked no later than Friday, November 6, 2015. Send ONE application to the address listed on Page 6 for the class location of your choice. Only one application per person will be accepted.

For maps of County Extension Offices go to: http://www.extension.uconn.edu/

For directions to the Bartlett Arboretum go to: http://bartlettarboretum.org/

For directions to Edgerton Park go to: http://www.edgertonpark.org/

Friday, November 20, 2015
Letters confirming acceptance to the program will be mailed out by this date. Those not accepted will also be notified by letter.

Friday, December 4, 2015
For those accepted in the program, your confirmation and check or money order for $425.00 must be postmarked no later than this date. Do not send payment unless you receive a letter of acceptance.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand all of the above.

Signature______________________________________________ Date ___________