

## **THE SOUTH CAROLINA MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM**

### What is the South Carolina Master Gardener Program?

This volunteer training program is administered by the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service. Introduced in Charleston County in 1981, the Master Gardener program is now offered in 36 counties.

The Master Gardener program is divided into two parts: instruction and service. In the first part, participants receive at least 40 hours of intensive, practical horticultural training. A few of the following topics are covered in the program:

Soils and Plant Nutrition

Basic Plant Pathology, Physiology, and Entomology

Vegetable Gardening

Tree and Small Fruit Culture

Culture of Woody Ornamentals

Lawn Management

Basic Landscape Design

Problem Solving

After successfully completing the classroom portion, which involves regular attendance and passing a final exam, participants receive a certificate of completion. Graduates then donate at least 40 hours of service to complete the last part of the program to earn the title of "Certified Master Gardener. "

### Is the Master Gardener Program for me?

Ask yourself these questions:

Do I want to learn more about plants, pests, landscaping and gardening?

Do I want to participate in an intensive, practical training program?

Do I look forward to sharing my knowledge with people in my community?

Do I have the time to commit to both the training and the volunteer service?

If you answered "yes" to these questions, then the Master Gardener program could be for you.

### How can I become a Master Gardener?

If you live in York, Chester or Lancaster Counties and have the desire, commitment and time to learn and want to put your knowledge and skills to work through volunteer service, then apply for admission to the Master Gardener program through your local Master Gardener Coordinator, Paul Thompson at:

[pthmpsn@clermson.edu](mailto:pthmpsn@clermson.edu)