

OSU Master Gardener™ 2024 Recertification Requirements

Recertification is defined as completing educational training to further enhance the individual's skills in the areas of home horticulture deemed important to the OSU Master Gardener program.

- In summary, you must complete a total of **26 volunteer hours and 10 hours of advanced (CEUs) master gardener training**. See specific details listed below.

Recertification in Central Oregon consists of the following requirements:

1. Volunteering a minimum of **26 hours (remote or otherwise)** in other approved OSU Master Gardener activities as found on the volunteer hour report form. **Three of the ten hours is required** for you to work at the OSU Demonstration Garden in Redmond according to your own schedule. If you are unable to physically work in the garden, check with Amy Jo on other options for this requirement.
2. Volunteering in plant clinic is not required however this project continues to be our greatest need and reason the master gardener program was started. Scheduling for plant clinic is now done electronically using [VicNet an on-line volunteer portal](#). We will send a link and instructions on how to sign up in March. Plant clinic hours are from April through October and the days and hours vary from office to office (Prineville and Redmond). Remote options may be available.
3. Completing a minimum of **10 hours (remote or otherwise)** of advanced training (Continuing Education Units – CEUs) through any of the following options. Report these hours on the volunteer hour report form. These hours do not count as VOLUNTEER hours, but are recorded on your report form so we know they are completed. Below are some examples of how to complete your advanced training classes.
 - a. Attend classes offered remotely through OSU Extension, <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series>
 - b. Take on-line advanced training classes found as a part of remote learning sign up here: <https://beav.es/qzT>
 - c. Attend approved remote classes offered by local OSU Extension or COMGA
 - d. Attend other community classes or programs i.e. COCC garden classes, (seek approval for recertification credit **prior** to these classes from the local MG™ supervisor)

Reporting Your Volunteer Hours

Counting your volunteer hours is one of the easiest and best ways to quantify the contributions of OSU Master Gardeners™ to their community. It is very important for you to keep track of the number of volunteer hours you give. OSU Extension needs to record a grand total (hours) for the OSU Master Gardener Program each year. These reports are helpful at the university level and help to quantify the valuable contributions you are making within our communities. One reason we need to let the community know what, and how much, we do is that we compete with other groups for the public's support of our programs. If the general public and their elected representatives do not know what we do, and do not understand the value of our contribution, they will not support it. A strong MG program indicates a strong horticultural program. When the public knows and approves of what it gets for its tax dollars, continued support is much more likely.

All activities listed in the online Volunteer Reporting System (VRS), count towards volunteer hours. Volunteer time is any time spent working on, for, or at an OSU Master Gardener Program or event that has been approved by the horticulture agent. If you are involved in an activity not listed on this list, you are required to fill out a [Master Gardener Project Proposal Form](#) (available on the web) and the program manager must approve it. Any activity unauthorized by the agent will not be counted as a MG volunteer activity and no hours will be given. Activities that result in making money or a profit and are not on the MG Program list will not be counted as volunteer hours. **When you are volunteering at an event you must be wearing your OSU Master Gardener Badge.** Preparation time for these events is counted. Any questions regarding your volunteer hours should be directed to your local master gardener program supervisor.

Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the [VicNet Online Volunteer Portal](#), volunteers with an email address and internet access are required to use this system. If you do not have an email address, then you can request a Volunteer Hour Report form from Rachel.humpert@oregonstate.edu. Your volunteer hours should be recorded monthly. Hours can be recorded in full or partial hours using decimal points with the new online system.