Want to Become a Master Gardener Volunteer?
If you are a resident of Manatee County, contact our Master Gardener Coordinator at (941) 722-4524 or ManateeMG@gmail.com.

The 2020 classes are being held in a flipped classroom format, with some sessions online and others in person. We will meet one evening each week starting August 5, 2020 to conduct hands-on activities and labs. The remaining coursework including lectures, guest speakers, and class discussions will be completed via an online classroom.
Is the Master Gardener Volunteer Program Right for You?
To help you decide, ask yourself:
- Are you looking for a volunteer activity that will stimulate your mind and body?
- Do you want to learn more about the culture and maintenance of many types of plants?
- Do you look forward to sharing your knowledge with others?
- Do you have enough time to attend the training and complete an annual volunteer commitment?
- Participants who complete the training and internship commitment are certified as Florida Master Gardener Volunteers by the UF/IFAS Extension.

What are Master Gardener Volunteers?
The Florida Master Gardener Volunteer Program is a volunteer-driven program that benefits UF/IFAS Extension Offices and the citizens of Florida. The program relies on dedicated volunteers who have an interest in gardening and in giving back to their community.

Mission
To assist Extension Agents in providing research-based horticultural education to Florida residents.

Vision
To be the most trusted resource for horticultural education in Florida.

What do Master Gardener Volunteers do?
Master Gardener Volunteers work through their UF/IFAS Extension county office to educate Floridians and provide research-based information about residential horticulture—America’s most popular pastime. Volunteers can fulfill their volunteer hours in a variety of ways, including:
- Answering residential horticulture questions over the phone or in person at Plant Diagnostic Clinics or at local events
- Participating in community and school garden projects
- Giving educational programs to the public and performing soil/water evaluations
- Propagating and grow plants for the annual Florida-Friendly plant sale
- Maintaining the educational gardens and greenhouse
- Certifying Florida-Friendly yards through the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program

What is Required of a Master Gardener Volunteer?
To become a Master Gardener Volunteer you need an interest in gardening, a willingness to learn, and a desire to help others learn. New Volunteers serve 100 hours within the first year of their certification. Volunteers can renew their certification by participating in 10 learning hours and completing 50 volunteer hours each additional year.