



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
Otsego County

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION TRAINING FOR MASTER GARDENERS**

Would you like to become a Master Gardener? Cornell Cooperative Extension of Otsego County is now accepting applications from area residents who would like to participate in this statewide public service program. Training for the program will begin September 22, and continues for 10 consecutive Mondays at the Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown.

The Cornell Master Gardener Program is a public service program that provides training to volunteers for the purpose of enabling them to serve their communities through horticulture, gardening and pest management. Volunteers participate in a series of science-based educational sessions that include many aspects of horticulture and related topics. Then, in return for this training, they assist local Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) personnel in providing information and education. Many volunteers answer home gardening questions on the Master Gardener Helpline, while others participate in community gardening projects, educational workshops and the annual plant sale.

Today's Master Gardener volunteers join educators in sharing their knowledge of and enthusiasm for gardening to meet crucial needs within their state and their local communities. Master Gardener volunteers make it their mission to educate local community members in applying horticultural science to manage their landscapes and gardens in a science-based, sustainable manner. They address environmental and social priorities such as water conservation, reducing the impact of invasive species, increasing public awareness of the value of home and public landscapes and the opportunities for healthy living through gardening.

The Master Gardener Program is open to everyone with an interest in gardening and a willingness to use their knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to make a positive impact on their local community. Contact Jano Nightingale, CCE Community Educator for Flowers, Fruits and Vegetables at 607-547-2536 x 221 for details on how to apply for the 2008 Master Gardener Training Program.

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