

## **Post Rock Answers**

**By Cassie Homan August 5, 2022**

**Post Rock Extension District Horticulture Agent**

### **Master Gardener Program**

If you love spending time with nature and growing trees, vegetables, or flowers, the K-State Master Gardener Program is perfect for you! Extension Master Gardeners come from a variety of backgrounds and share a passion for gardening, an enthusiasm for learning, and a commitment to helping others. Master Gardeners have successfully completed basic training in the discipline of horticulture and they share their time and expertise as volunteers in their community to promote Post Rock Extension District's educational mission.

In 2021 Master Gardeners from across the state of Kansas donated a total of 91,083 volunteer hours with an average of 76 hours donated per volunteer. This is equivalent to 44 full time extension staff positions and estimated to be worth \$2.6 million dollars.

The Post Rock District Extension Master Gardener Program is an educational volunteer program sponsored by K-State Research and Extension and the Post Rock District. The program is a volunteer program in which K-State Research and Extension "trades" classroom training for volunteer time. The 2022 class is starting on September 1<sup>st</sup> and will run until December 15<sup>th</sup>. The classes are taught by K-State Specialists, Extension agents, and subject matter experts. They will be delivered via Zoom Webinars that will be paired with local in-person sessions. Classes will be on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 pm via Zoom. The program costs \$45 dollars to cover instructor fees. Participants will receive an educational online handbook and many other educational garden materials.

Master Gardener trainees will essentially receive a mini horticulture degree. The classes include subjects such as plant growth and development, soils, pesticide and safety, annual and perennial flowers, woody ornamentals, landscape maintenance, vegetable gardening, plant diseases, turfgrass in Kansas, entomology, fruits in Kansas, and wildlife management. After Master Gardeners complete these classes they volunteer in the local communities to help with education and beautification projects.

Extension Master Gardeners become friends with many interesting and talented individuals, they never stop learning, but continue to grow in their knowledge of garden related

issues. Being an Extension Master Gardener volunteer is a fun, interesting and rewarding experience. If you are interested in joining this program contact Cassie Homan at the Beloit Extension Office at 785-738-3597 or [choman@ksu.edu](mailto:choman@ksu.edu). Program participants must be enrolled by August 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Post Rock Extension District of K-State Research and Extension serves Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, and Smith counties. Cassie may be contacted at [choman@ksu.edu](mailto:choman@ksu.edu) or by calling Beloit (785-738-3597).*