

## Master Gardeners

The vast majority of people in New Mexico are connected to gardening in some way.



Volunteers in the master gardener program tour a container gardening demonstration. As part of the program, volunteers receive training to prepare them to answer questions and teach others.

### About

Master gardeners volunteer their time to help their local CES agent teach appropriate, research-based gardening techniques to others in their community. These experienced New Mexico gardeners come from all ethnic and educational backgrounds and walks of life to answer homeowner horticulture questions and, in turn, help their communities grow.

The vast majority of people in the state are connected to gardening in some way—whether through vegetable gardens, home landscaping, houseplants or something in between—and many seek out advice.

Master gardeners assist agents in numerous ways as determined appropriate by the county Extension agent. Some of them provide answers on telephone hotlines, while others answer questions at booths in libraries and at growers' markets. In one county, the master gardeners have forged a relationship with the local museum and teach in that venue. Other master gardener programs have developed a series of public education courses in libraries and community centers.

### Get Involved

In return for volunteering, master gardeners receive education from NMSU Extension specialists, county agents and local experts to prepare them to answer questions and teach others. In some counties, the master gardener classes are taught annually. Other county agents find that the program is more sustainable if it is taught once every two years.

The courses prepare master gardeners to answer the most common questions from homeowners and other gardeners. The classes are founded on a core curriculum that begins with foundational courses in soils, basic plant science and environmental topics related to gardening, plant pathology, entomology and pesticide safety.

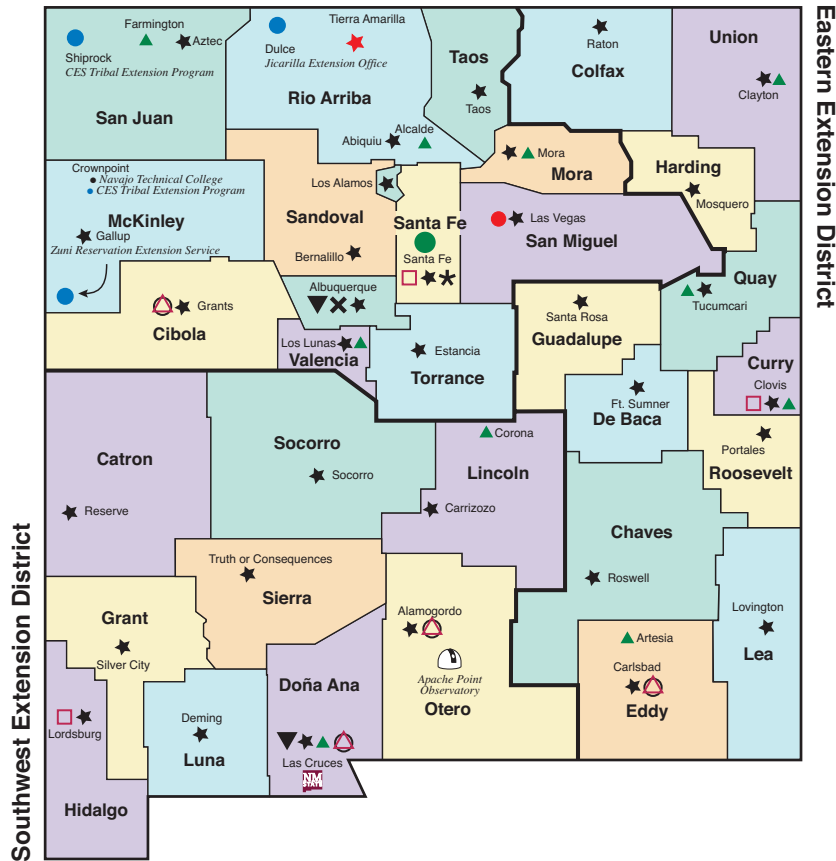
Basic master gardener classes include information about vegetables and small fruit, xeriscaping and landscaping, tree fruits and nuts, weed identification and management, ornamental shrubs and trees, conifers, and irrigation. Additional specialized classes may be included in the curriculum covering herbaceous plants, roses, ornamental grasses, backyard composting, herbs, vertebrate pest management and other topics as needed in specific counties.

Those interested in becoming master gardeners must successfully complete certain classes and pass tests covering the course material before beginning their service.

### Contact

If you would like the assistance of a master gardener or are interested in becoming a master gardener, contact your county Extension office. For additional information about the program, contact the NMSU Extension Plant Sciences Department at (575) 646-5280 or visit <http://mastergardeners.nmsu.edu>.

## Northern Extension District



### Facility Locations

- ★ County Cooperative Extension Service Offices
- ★ Satellite County Office
- Tribal Cooperative Extension Service Offices
- ▲ Agricultural Science and Research Centers
- Cooperative Extension Service District Offices
- ★ University Government Affairs
- Ⓜ NMSU Community Colleges
- ✕ Admissions Office
- Santa Fe Ranch Demonstration Site
- Ⓜ NMSU Main Campus
- 🕒 Apache Point Observatory
- ▼ CES/New Mexico Works Program
- Memorial Middle School Agricultural Extension and Education Center

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