



## **Master Gardener Training Classes to Be Held**

The Kay County Oklahoma State University Extension Service is now taking applications for the Master Gardener Program until February 6, 2009. Master Gardener trainees will be accepted through an application process.

The Master Gardener Program provides in-depth horticulture training for area people. Master Gardener is a title given to individuals that receive over 40 hours of in-depth training from Oklahoma State University Horticulture Specialist and agree, in return to give 40 hours of volunteer service helping their local county extension program.

Master Gardener training will be held during the day at the Pioneer Technology Center in Ponca City. Training will include topics such as basic plant science, entomology, plant pathology, soils and nutrition, vegetable gardening, woody and herbaceous ornamentals, fruits and nuts, turf management and pesticide safety.

Upon completion of the Master Gardener program, each Master Gardener is required to give back 40 hours of volunteer service. These volunteer hours can be achieved in a variety of ways including presentations, community service projects, master gardener projects, newspaper columns, radio spots, horticulture consultation, assisting with master gardener program class, etc.

Additionally, Master Gardeners will have an in-depth horticulture reference manual. This manual is a compilation of Extension Service fact sheets and bulletins that apply specifically to our unique climate. The cost of the course including all materials is \$100. Applications for a limited number of openings in this class are now being taken at the Kay County Extension Office. The program is open to anyone regardless of race, color, sex, religion, and age handicap, status as a veteran or national origin. Oklahoma State University, USDA, Kay County and OSU Extension cooperating. Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, status as a veteran or disability. OSU is an AA/EEO/E-Verify employer committed to multicultural diversity.

For more information contact the Kay County OSU Extension Center at 580-362-3194. Again the deadline for applications is February 6, 2009.

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