

Master Gardener

Warwickshire programme summary



Volunteer network supporting local people and communities grow fruit and vegetables in their gardens and communal land

Householders	Each Master Gardener supports 10 householders starting out or already growing food, offering seasonal advice/visits, demonstrations, local network, and other engagement. Householders feedback their successes and problems. They're offered free resources and discounted Garden Organic membership and Grow Your Own magazine subscription.
Local groups and residents	Each Master Gardener promotes benefits of growing your own through events, community groups, talks, articles, demos, and other innovative engagement.

Why have this programme?

Demand	More and more people want to grow their own for a healthy diet and lifestyle, money saving, access to green space, environment-friendly organic gardening, and contribute to national food security and growing skills.
Having a go	Everyone can grow fruit and veg; both young and old, whether starting from scratch or gardening for years, using a windowsill, balcony, garden, allotment, or community space. It's exciting and rewarding wherever the seed is sown.

Where are Master Gardeners?

Programme areas	Warwickshire, North London, South London, and Norfolk (funding until August 2012) with plans to expand to follow successes of Garden Organic's Master Composters (500 volunteers nationally funded by local authorities)
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Who is involved?

Partnerships	Generous support from Local Food (Big Lottery Fund), charitable trusts and local authorities, together with strong links to local community growing groups. Programme managed by Garden Organic, UK's leading organic growing charity dedicated to researching and promoting organic gardening, farming and food.
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Warwickshire volunteer role

Become a valuable mentor to inspire and support households and other local groups/residents to grow their own.

Getting involved

Qualities

Some food growing experience and passion for encouraging others to have a go. You don't need to be an expert on organic growing techniques, as these are part of your training and support.

Training

Full Master Gardener training, attending a two day course on the 1 & 2 Oct 2011, supported by dedicated manual and interactive website.

Getting started

Ongoing Support

You'll receive active support from me - your local volunteer co-ordinator to help you with all your volunteering activities. This includes one-to-one guidance, resources, regular updates, in-service training, newsletters and factsheets.

Volunteer time and place

We ask for 30 hours (or more) of volunteering a year at a time and place that suits (you may already be doing quite a bit towards this!). It's about a morning a month. You'll need to feedback your hours, activities, successes and problems to me and via the website.

Wider team

Become part of an exciting network of Master Gardeners promoting food growing across Islington, Warwickshire, South London, Norfolk and Lincolnshire, with plans to expand to follow successes of Garden Organic's Master Composters (550 volunteers nationally).

More benefits

You'll have access to free resources, badge, polo-shirt, safe working policies, insurance, expenses, annual awards, Garden Organic membership and discounted Grow Your Own magazine subscription.

Part of a group?

Support your growing club, allotment society, Transition Town or other community group.

Phone me on 024 7621 721

Email knewman@gardenorganic.org.uk

Kate Newman, Warwickshire Volunteer co-ordinator