

Montana State University Extension Master Gardener Program: Education and Volunteering



Instructor and Master
Gardener Coordinator
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Montana State University
Extension Agent
Butte-Silver Bow County



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Mountains & Minds

If you have a garden and a library, you have
everything you need.

– Cicero



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Introductions

- Name
- Where are you from?
- A little about yourself (e.g. hobbies, interests, career, etc.)
- What plant would you be, if you could be a plant?

Introductions

- Jeremy Weber
- Indiana
- Extension Agent for MSU, Purdue (Plant Ecologist)
 - Also tree crew leader, field supervisor/project manager for JFNew, Program Coordinator for DNR
 - B.S. Forestry, M.S. Botany



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Introductions

- 91 of 92 Indiana Counties, 37 states, and 12 countries
- Civic Improvement, LEPC, MHCD, Fair Board, 4-H Council, etc.
- VP Area Plan Commission, Canal Trail Board of Dir., Economic Dev., etc.





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Goodyera pubescens

Rattlesnake plantain



Introductions

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- What plant would you be, if you could be a plant?

The History of the Extension Master Gardener Program

- Began in Washington State (WSU) in 1972
- Response to the overwhelming number of requests for gardening information



According to the 2009 National Extension Master Gardener Survey

- Active in 48 states and 4 Canadian provinces
- 94,865 MG Volunteers
- Total annual volunteer hours – 5,197,573
- Value of volunteer hours – \$101,400,000
- Personal contacts by MG – 4,850,285



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The New 3 Level Extension Master Gardener Program for Montana

Potentially offered in all 56 counties

- Level 1 – Basic yard and garden class
(beginner to intermediate)
- Level 2 – More intensive training for experienced gardeners
(Intermediate to advanced)
- Level 3 – Three day intensive training at MSU
“Master Gardener University”

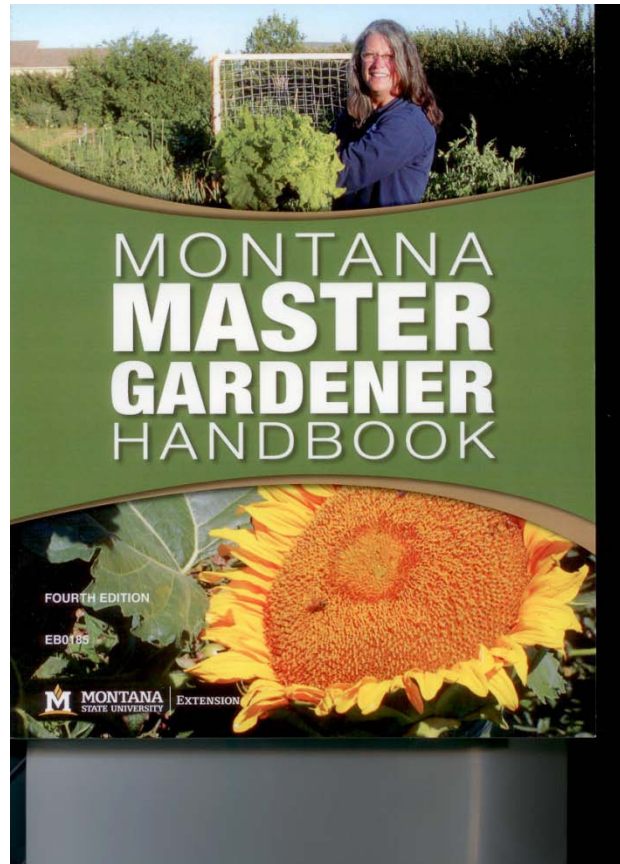


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Your Textbook for the Master Gardener Class



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Level 1

Extension Master Gardener

- 8-week beginning level course
- Must complete 20 hours volunteer commitment
- September 29 – Intro to MSU Extension and Master Gardener AND Soils and Fertility
- October 6 – Plant Growth and Development, Pt. I
- October 13 – Growing Food from Yard and Garden
- October 27 – Flowers
- November 3 – Trees, Shrubs, Vines and Pruning
- November 10 – Lawns and Irrigation
- November 17 – Yard and Garden Maintenance/Composting
- December 1 – Intro to IPM



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Level 1

Extension Master Gardener

- Final Exam ???
 - Open-Book or Take-Home
- No Class October 20 or November 24



MSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Commitment

- Responding to horticultural inquiries in a local MSU Extension office
- Researching and writing horticulture-based articles for local media outlets
- Giving talks to local groups
- Introducing children to gardening
- Presenting information at garden and trade shows
- Volunteering at farmers' markets
- Presenting educational programs
- Providing research assistance
- Creating and maintaining demonstration and community gardens



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Online resources for Master Gardeners

- MSU Extension Yard and Garden Website
<http://www.msuextension.org/yard.asp>
- Montana Master Gardener Program Website
<http://gardenguide.montana.edu/mgardener/mgardenerindex.asp>
- Master Gardener Forum
<http://gardenguide.montana.edu/mgardener/secure/forum/>

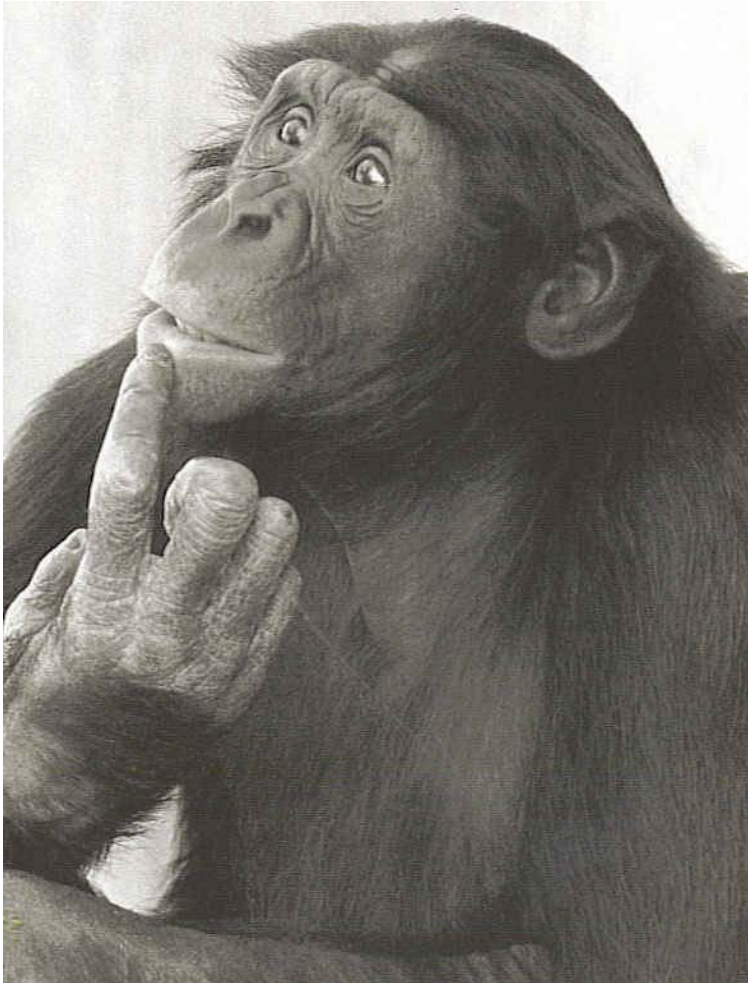


Homework

- Bring a list of your favorite gardening references to next class



Questions?



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