



**Date:** September 8, 2009

**For Immediate Release**

**TRAIN TO BECOME AN EXPERT GARDENER THROUGH THE ST. LOUIS  
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM AT THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN**

**WHAT:** St. Louis Master Gardener & Certificate for Home Horticulture course  
**WHEN:** Thurs. afternoons 1 p.m. to 4; Jan. 7, 2010 through May 6, 2010  
**WHERE:** Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., south St. Louis;  
St. Louis Community College at Meramec in Kirkwood, Mo.  
**COST:** \$300  
**INFO:** [www.stlmg.org](http://www.stlmg.org); (314) 577-9442

(ST. LOUIS): Train to become a **Certified Master Gardener** at the Missouri Botanical Garden! Applications are now being accepted for the St. Louis Master Gardener Program. Certified Master Gardeners are adults of all ages who love gardening and have previous gardening experience. The program provides a wonderful opportunity for individuals to share knowledge and enthusiasm for gardening with people in their neighborhoods, schools, parks and communities. This year, an online non-certification Master Gardener course will also be offered. The application deadline is Oct. 2.

Master Gardener candidates receive about 45 hours of horticultural training consisting of a variety of horticulture topics including plant relationships, anatomy growth and development; soils, composting and mulching; propagation techniques, lawn care, flower gardening, and more. Classes are taught by Missouri Botanical Garden staff, University of Missouri Extension faculty and qualified professionals in the St. Louis community. Each person accepted into the Master Gardener program agrees to give **50 hours of volunteer work a year**. A minimum of ten hours of continuing  
(over)

### **ADD ONE: Master Gardener**

education is recommended to keep certification active on an annual basis.

New this year, participants will have the option of attending instructor-live sessions at Missouri Botanical Garden's William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening or taking the course as a broadcast live-feed webinar at St. Louis Community College at Meramec in Kirkwood, Mo. The class will connect with a live broadcast from the Kemper Center and will be supervised by the St. Louis County Extension Horticulture Specialist and advanced Master Gardeners. The course will be offered on Thursday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 4, Jan. 7 through May 6.

Also new this year, the Missouri Botanical Garden will offer a Certificate of Home Horticulture. Students take the Master Gardener training course online at home or at the office Thurs. afternoons from 1 p.m. to 4. Those who opt for the online training forgo the volunteer commitment.

To apply for either the Master Gardener or the Home Horticulture Program visit [www.stlmg.org](http://www.stlmg.org). The application deadline is Oct. 2. Enrollment for the Certified Master Gardener Training Program is limited to 50. Acceptance to the Certificate for Home Horticulture is unlimited. The individual cost for both programs is \$300 and is due by Nov. 30.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is the oldest continually operating botanical garden in the nation, celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2009. *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years*.

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**NOTE: A digital color image is available by request. Download media materials at [www.mobot.org/press](http://www.mobot.org/press).**

The Missouri Botanical Garden's mission is "to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, in order to preserve and enrich life." Today, 150 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display. *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years*.