



## University of Vermont Extension Master Gardener Bennington County Chapter

### Scholarship Application for the 2025 Extension Master Gardener Course

#### About the Scholarship:

Recipients will receive a \$250 scholarship from the Bennington County Chapter to be applied to the 2025 UVM Extension Master Gardener course. Scholarship funds are raised by Chapter members who dig, pot, advertise and/or sell plants at the annual plant sale(s). In the event a recipient is unable to fulfill requirements for EMG certification, the recipient is expected to, in good faith, reimburse the Chapter for the full cost of the scholarship.

NOTE: Recipients who have fully paid for the course prior to receiving a scholarship will be reimbursed \$250 from the Bennington County Chapter.

#### Eligibility:

- Applicants must live in Bennington County,
- Enroll in the course as a Track 1 (Volunteer Certification Track)\* student,
- Volunteer to work on the Spring and Fall Plant sales (which fund the scholarship program),
- Pursue a 40-hour internship with UVM EMG-sponsored projects within a two-year period, and
- Participate in Chapter learning opportunities and other events that are hosted by the Bennington County Chapter.

#### Application Deadline:

The completed application and the signed Memorandum of Understanding must be emailed to Deborah Benoit at [intheberkshires@adelphia.net](mailto:intheberkshires@adelphia.net) by **5:00 pm E.T. on Friday, December 13, 2024**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered. All applicants will be notified of the results by January 7, 2025.

#### About the Course:

The University of Vermont Extension Master Gardener program will offer its signature course during winter/spring 2025. Registration is open until the deadline of January 17, 2025. This is a 16-week, non-credit online course that covers the fundamentals of home gardening and is focused on evidence-based plant and soil sciences. Topics include botany basics, soil management, annuals and perennials, insect and disease pest management, fruit and vegetable production and planning, garden pollinator habitat, tree care, and sustainable landscape design.

For 2025, the Extension Master Gardener course will start on January 23, 2025. Track 1 (volunteer certification) students must attend live Zoom sessions each Wednesday evening from 6 to 7:30 p.m. starting on January 29 and running through May 14. The online course content closes to all students on May 29.

For details about the course, please visit the website at: <http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/>.

To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Debra Heleba at [debra.heleba@uvm.edu](mailto:debra.heleba@uvm.edu), (802) 656-1777, by December 13, 2024 so we may assist you.

\*Please note: Track 1 students are required to complete a volunteer application, background check consent form, and a Minor Protection training.

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# Bennington County Chapter Scholarship Application

Email the completed application by no later than 5 p.m. ET on December 13, 2024 or send via USPS mail (must be postmarked by December 13) to:

Deborah Benoit at [intheberkshires@adelphia.net](mailto:intheberkshires@adelphia.net)  
134 Barlow Ave., North Adams, MA 01247

## Contact Information

Name:

Street address:

Mailing address if different:

City/Town:

Zip code:

Email address:

Phone number:

**Please answer the following questions (on a separate page), limiting each answer to no more than 150 words.**

1. Please share how you might fulfill your commitment to volunteer 20 hours/year for the next two years toward EMG certification.
2. Do you agree to volunteer under the guidance of a Certified EMG Mentor (if available) who has been selected by the EMG Chapter Steering Team? If yes, please share what types of support you would benefit from a mentor.
3. How will you contribute to the goal of Extension Master Gardeners to promote successful, safe and environmentally prudent home horticulture practices through education and community activities?
4. What is your area of interest in gardening? Flowers? Landscape? Vegetables?
5. Describe your experience and level of expertise as a gardener (please note that scholarship selections will not be based on the level of your gardening experience).

# Memorandum of Understanding

## 2025 UVM Extension Master Gardener Course Scholarship

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of the applicant's interest in the UVM Extension Master Gardener (EMG) program and commitment to participate in Extension Master Gardener events and projects. Upon successful completion of the 2025 Extension Master Gardener Course as a Track 1 student, the recipient agrees to pursue a 40-hour internship within a two-year period. As an EMG Intern, the recipient agrees to volunteer under the guidance of a Certified EMG Mentor (if available) who has been selected by the EMG Chapter Steering Team. The EMG Mentor will help the intern select an approved project. This project will provide hands-on gardening experience as well as exposure to chapter communication and operations. The recipient is also expected to participate in chapter learning opportunities, annual plant sale, and other events that their local Extension Master Gardener Chapter hosts.

### Selection Criteria:

The Chapter Steering Committee will meet to determine Scholarship recipients. Criteria will be based on:

- A commitment to complete the Extension Master Gardener internship and earn EMG certification.
- A commitment to work with a mentor (if available) who will support you during your internship.
- A commitment to share acquired knowledge with fellow EMG's and the general public.
- A commitment to be an active volunteer on Chapter projects and events.

If selected, I understand the expectations and selection criteria outlined above. My signature confirms my commitment to this agreement.

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Printed Name

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Date

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Signature