

Master Gardener class to begin April 21

From MSU News Service

Summary: An eight-week Level 2 Master Gardener course will start Wednesday, April 21. The classes are designed as intermediate/advanced yard and garden classes for those who want to learn information beyond basic yard and garden skills.

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Bozeman -- Montana State University Extension, Gallatin County will host the Level 2 Master Gardener classes starting Wednesday, April 21, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Museum of the Rockies. The classes will continue for eight consecutive Wednesdays through June 9.

The Level 2 Master Gardener classes are designed for intermediate to advanced gardeners to learn more about binomial nomenclature, plant propagation, plant growth and development, season extension, soils, fertility, and integrated pest management of trees, shrubs, vegetables, flowers and turfgrass.

"The question that many have is whether they need to complete the Level 1 course to get into Level 2 Master Gardener," says Toby Day, Extension Horticulture Specialist who oversees Master Gardener. "It is not required. However, the class will be more advanced and is not recommended for the beginner gardener."

The Level 2 Master Gardener class will be taught by various specialists from MSU and MSU Extension. At the end of the course will be a mandatory two-hour closed-book exam. Participation in the Master Gardener Level 2 class also requires a 30-hour volunteer commitment. The volunteer commitment may include answering horticulture questions for Extension, volunteering at a question-and-answer booth at the Gallatin County Farmers' Market, writing articles, teaching classes or designing, installing and maintaining community gardens throughout the county. More information about the volunteer commitments will be discussed the first day of class.

The cost of the Master Gardener class is \$115 with \$70 refunded when the volunteer commitment is satisfied.

To enroll in the Master Gardener Level 2 classes, contact the MSU Extension office in Gallatin County at 201 West Madison in Belgrade or call 388-3213. If you would like to learn more about the Master Gardener Program for Montana, log onto <http://www.msueextension.org/yard.asp> and follow the link to Master Gardener. If you have any questions about the Gallatin County Master Gardener Level 2 classes, contact the Master Gardener Coordinator, Toby Day, MSU Extension horticulture specialist at toby.day@montana.edu or call 994-6523.

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