

Master Gardener Participation Levels for 2022

At a statewide level the policy defines:

- Different levels of participation in the Extension Master Gardener Program
- When you are removed from the program
- How you can return to the program

Participation Level	Criteria	Notes
Certified	You report BOTH a minimum of 24 hours of volunteer service and a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education into the ORS by the December 31 deadline. You agree to terms and conditions.**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are active in the program and contribute the minimum # of hours in both volunteer service and continuing education. • You are Certified the following year. • You are connected to program resources (i.e. Canvas, ORS, emails, etc.) • You are eligible for awards and recognition (TBD)*
Active	You report less than the minimum hours of volunteer service (24) or continuing education (10), and report at least 1 hour of volunteer service and 1 hour of continuing education into the ORS by the December 31 deadline. You agree to terms and conditions.**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are Active in the program, contributing less than the minimum # of hours in both volunteer service (24) and continuing education (10), but reporting a minimum of 1 hour in each. • You are uncertified for the following year. • You are connected to program resources (i.e. Canvas, ORS, emails, etc.) • You may not be eligible for some awards (TBD)*.
Inactive	You report less than 1 hour in either volunteer service or continuing education into the ORS by the December 31 deadline. You agree to terms and conditions.**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are Inactive for the following year. • You are connected to program resources (i.e. Canvas, ORS, emails, etc.) • You are ineligible for awards and recognition.
Deactivated	You report two consecutive years of less than 1 hour in either volunteer service or continuing education into the ORS by the December 31 deadline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning of year 3, you are removed from the Extension Master Gardener Program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You are removed from the email list and your ORS & Canvas account is deactivated. ○ You are no longer affiliated with the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program and may not use the term "Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener." ○ You may re-apply for admission according to the policy.
Honored	You complete 10 years* OR 1000 hours of service to the Extension Master Gardener Program in Wisconsin as recorded into the ORS AND list significant accomplishments to the local or statewide program. This should include leadership, contributions to projects, or support to other volunteers and Extension staff. You agree to terms and conditions.**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You complete the application. (Applications will be accepted only from November 1 through December 31, with decisions awarded before March 31.) • Criteria is subject to change in the future.

*Contingent on new awards and recognition system.

** Terms and conditions include the Code of Ethics. The Master Gardener Program reserves the right to update these as necessary.

To return to the Master Gardener Program:

- Once Deactivated, you have up to 5 years since last being Active/Certified to return to the program (with the requirement of completing Onboarding-lite (no exam, no fee).
- After 5 years of absence, you must re-enroll and complete Onboarding (take exam and pay fee).
- You will return with a participation level of Inactive. The hours you report into the ORS by December 31 will determine your participation level for the following year.

Example:

Master Gardener	Year 1 (start) (VS, CE)*	Year 2 (VS, CE)	Year 3 (VS, CE)	Year 4 (VS, CE)	Year 5 (VS, CE)	Year 6 (VS, CE)	Year 7 (VS, CE)	Year 8 (VS, CE)
Ann	30, 12	35, 10	42, 12	25, 11	45, 20	26, 12	55, 10	25, 22
Bob	62, 10	33, 8	0,0	25, 10	34, 12	24, 6	18, 4	3, 5
Chris	8, 4	9, 2	0,1	0,0	X		Y	Z
Dan (Honored)	26, 12	40, 10	2, 5 *	0, 0	0, 2	0, 0	5, 2	0, 0

*VS - Volunteer Service hours, CE - Continuing Education hours

Hours reported in a year affect the participation designation for the following year.

- Ann, Bob, and Chris all join the MG program in year 1 and are initially Inactive in the program.
- Ann is active in the program every year. She reports the minimum requirements each year and is Certified for the following year across all years.
- Bob has variable activity in the program. He failed to report the minimums in year 3, thus became Inactive in year 4, and returned to Certified status in year 5 and 6. In year 7, 8, 9 he returns to Active status for reporting less than the minimums but reporting at least 1 hour of volunteer service and 1 hour of continuing education.
- Chris is Active in years 2, 3 due to reporting less than the minimums in the prior years. Chris reports no hours in both years 3 and 4. Chris's account is deactivated at the beginning of year 5 (X). Chris has 5 years since last reporting (Active) to return to the program; he must contact the MG program to reactivate his accounts and report hours by the end of year 7 (Y) to return to program with only being required to complete Onboarding-lite; if he contacts the MG program in year 8 (Z) he must again enroll in Onboarding and pass the exam to return to the program.
- Dan applied for Honored Status in year 3 for completing 10+ years in the program and significant accomplishments. He received this status and may continue in the program reporting no hours in perpetuity. However, any hours he does we ask that those be reported. Dan will still must accomplish other terms of the Program such as Code of Ethics and accepting any new terms and conditions.