

# Garden Hobbyists Become Educators

NEWARK, Del. - "Beware of the aphids," Jay Windsor, cooperative extension agricultural agent for the University of Delaware in Sussex County, cautions 25 wide-eyed students working on their certification as Master Gardeners. "Aphids do not need a male to reproduce. They bear live young and the young reproduce almost immediately."

What this means, Windsor explains, is that if a single aphid and all its offspring multiply and live, "within one year's time, they would cover the earth to a depth of one foot."

With this announcement, Windsor has the complete attention of the class gathered indoors on a rainy day at the UD Research and Education Center (REC) in Georgetown. The Master Gardeners class meets for three hours, twice a week, for 10 weeks to complete the 60 hours of required training on all aspects of growing plants and keeping them healthy. The topics range from pest control and composting to the gardener's role in helping to protect the environment.

"A special emphasis of the training is to impress upon students the importance of vigilance," explains Windsor, who is assistant coordinator of the Master Gardeners program. "By scouting the landscape and monitoring plants, you often can nip problems like aphids in the bud."

Maggie Moor-Orth, lead program coordinator for the Master Gardeners Program in Kent and Sussex Counties, says this program is intended for people who have "an interest in gardening and the time to volunteer." As extension agricultural agent for the Delaware State University, Moor-Orth co-teaches the certification classes with Windsor.

"Our students love learning new skills, then sharing their knowledge with others," she says.

Helen Williams of Georgetown, for example, is newly retired from teaching and loves gardening.

"I was looking for another field to teach in and share information, and I'm learning so much" she says, adding that she hopes to help with the landscaping of the Georgetown library.

Karin Smith of Dover can scarcely contain her exuberance, which appears to be contagious among her classmates.

"This program is so much fun! I've been wanting to this for years."

"I got into gardening because I like cooking with herbs, but herbs are so expensive to buy," Smith says. "I live in a development that doesn't allow vegetable gardens so I've been mixing herbs into my landscaping and no one can even tell. Lavender, thyme, and basil are beautiful additions to the landscape, for example, and they are so easy to grow, too."

A newcomer to Delaware, Ilya Myers called Windsor to learn how to take care of the roses she wanted to plant. He invited her to participate in the Master Gardeners program.

"I wanted to learn more about gardening techniques in this climate, and this program is perfect," she says. Myers hopes to help care for the flower garden around the circle in Georgetown, where she now lives.

According to Moor-Orth and Windsor, the Delaware Master Gardener's program began in 1986. The certification coursework is scheduled for the fall of every other year in Sussex and Kent Counties and for the spring of every other year in New Castle County. In return for the comprehensive training, the Master Gardeners give back 45 hours of volunteer service the first year, then 25 to 30 hours every year thereafter.

"This is a great program and a super group", says Windsor, "Working with these people has come to be an important part of my job."

Moore-Orth says the Master Gardeners become involved in the program with the intention of volunteering for Cooperative Extension," but they evolve into so much more than a volunteer."

"They become educators instead," she explains. "It's wonderful to watch that happen." If you have a gardening question, please call your county Extension office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Gardening inquiries are answered within 24 hours whenever possible. To reach Maggie Moor-Orth directly, please call (302) 875-6426



Master Gardeners Betty Boettger, Irma Leidig, and Jacque Johnson combine gardening interests with teaching skills.



George Sparrow uses his master gardener training to help educate others on growing healthy plants.

## Estate Planning

MONTROSE (Susquehanna Co.)- An area of business management that is frequently overlooked is estate planning. Owners are so busy with the day-to-day operation of businesses that they don't think about what changes may occur in the future. There are several good reasons to consider estate planning regardless of age: to plan for your family's welfare, to make sure things are done the way you want them to be done, and to lower or eliminate inheritance taxes.

On May 3, Susquehanna County Cooperative Extension will offer an Estate Planning Workshop. This program is for all small businesses, both farm and non-farm. Areas addressed include types of title transfers, wills and living trusts, tax-free transfers, State inheritance taxes, and federal estate and gift tax laws.

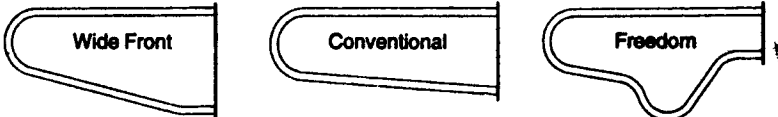
The Estate Planning workshop will be held in the County Office Building, 31 Public Avenue, Montrose, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on May 3. The cost of the program is \$10 which covers lunch. Reservations can be made by calling the Extension office at (570-) 278-1158.

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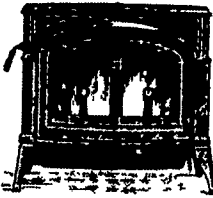


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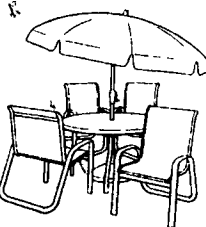


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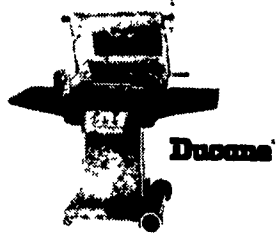


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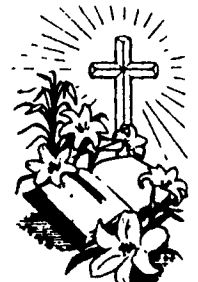
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