

# Competencies Checklist for WSU Extension Master Gardeners

These competencies are organized around our course outcomes and:

- outline standard expectations for a foundational level of knowledge (head), attitudes (heart) and skills (hands).
- empower all participants in Washington State to become highly trained, confident volunteers.
- are for local use and are not required or collected at the state level.
- are intended to be a resource for:
  - o training teams to plan local volunteer training topics and activities.
  - o trainees to record learning achievements as they study and intern on the path to becoming certified volunteers.

## Course Outcomes

Category	Description	Outcome
<b>Foundational Knowledge</b>	Understanding and remembering facts, terms, formulas, concepts, principles, etc.	Identify and explain the key EMG Training concepts, terms, relationships, and so on.
<b>Application</b>	Developing critical, creative, practical thinking, and other skills such as communication and technology.	Apply the EMG Training content to solve problems, make decisions, or create new knowledge.
<b>Integration</b>	Making connections among ideas, subjects, and people.	Connect the EMG Training content to other disciplines and real-world contexts.
<b>Human Dimension</b>	Learning about oneself and understanding and interacting with others.	Analyze the personal and social implications of EMG Training content and its ethical dimensions.
<b>Caring</b>	Identifying and changing one's feelings, interests, and values.	Develop personal curiosity and interest in EMG Training concepts.
<b>Learning How to Learn</b>	Becoming a better student by learning how to ask and answer questions and becoming a self-directed learner.	Use effective strategies and resources to be self-directed learners and continue learning about EMG Training content beyond the training.

# Core Competencies

Domain	Competency	Criterion	Evidence	Notes
Foundational Knowledge	<b>WSU's Land-Grant Purpose</b>	Articulates WSU's land-grant mission and the EMG Program's role.		
	<b>Program Mission, Vision, Values and Priorities</b>	Clearly articulates the program's mission, vision, values and priorities.		
	<b>Becoming a Volunteer</b>	Demonstrates clear understanding of the expectations for becoming a volunteer.		
	<b>Understanding Volunteering Options</b>	Is aware of various volunteer opportunities in their county and the application of their knowledge.		
	<b>Documentation</b>	Documents volunteer hours and other program activities correctly using program tools.		
	<b>Online Green School Content</b>	Has completed all online activities and achieved 80%+ on quizzes and the final exam.	Complete all activities, average 80%+ on chapter quizzes, score 80%+ on the final exam	
Application & Integration	<b>Botany and Plant Identification</b>	Demonstrates proficiency in using plant keys and field guides for plant identification and correctly uses plant morphological characteristics		
	<b>Soil Science</b>	Begins to apply soil science concepts to evaluate soil health and demonstrate knowledge of plant mineral nutrition and appropriate fertilizer use		
	<b>Soil Improvement</b>	Begins to troubleshoot and correct common home composting problems and apply urban soil management techniques for soil improvement		

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	<b>Garden Animals</b>	Begins to implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies in the garden for insect and vertebrate pest control		
	<b>IPM and Pesticides</b>	Explains the concept of IPM and its role in sustainable horticulture and understands responsible pesticide use		
	<b>Solving Plant Problems</b>	Begins to diagnose plant problems using observation and communication skills and apply knowledge of plant pathology		
	<b>Flowers and Pollinators</b>	Selects appropriate herbaceous plants and applies knowledge of plant-pollinator interactions to recommend pollinator-friendly mixes		
	<b>Trees and Shrubs</b>	Demonstrates proper pruning techniques for woody plants and applies knowledge of trees and woody landscape plants to maintain plant health and aesthetics		
	<b>Growing Vegetables</b>	Selects appropriate plants for vegetable gardens and applies integrated weed management plans		
	<b>Growing Fruit</b>	Identifies cultural needs of common fruit trees and berries		
	<b>Water and Lawns</b>	Designs a basic drip irrigation system to apply water conservation techniques to landscaping and lawn management		
	<b>Climate Change</b>	Begins to apply climate change principles to plant selection, pest management, water conservation and fire-resistant landscaping		

Domain	Competency	Criterion	Evidence	Notes
Human Dimension	<b>DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)</b>	Recognizes and acts to contribute to a diverse, equitable, and inclusive Master Gardener Program.		
	<b>Working with the Public</b>	Communicates effectively with the public and volunteers and treats others with respect.		
Caring	<b>Stewardship</b>	Explores and articulates the concept of stewardship and its connection to the program.		
	<b>Sense of Place</b>	Explores and demonstrates understanding of the unique ecological character of their community.		
	<b>Humans in Nature</b>	Explores and explains their role in their local ecosystem and its importance.		
Learning How to Learn	<b>Accessing Accurate Horticultural Information</b>	Can access and effectively utilize approved resources (WSU and other appropriate) to find reliable information.		
	<b>Understanding of the Flipped Classroom Model</b>	Completes pre-class preparation, engages fully in class discussions, and uses feedback to improve performance.		
	<b>Media Literacy</b>	Critically evaluates media for relevancy, bias, and credibility.		
	<b>Science Literacy</b>	Understands and applies the scientific method in horticultural practices.		