

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
Foundational Knowledge	Understanding and remembering facts, terms, formulas, concepts, principles, etc.	Identify and explain the key EMG Training concepts, terms, relationships, and so on.
Application	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.
Integration	Making connections among ideas, subjects, and people.	Connect the EMG Training content to other disciplines and real-world contexts.
Human Dimension	Learning about oneself and understanding and interacting with others.	Analyze the personal and social implications of EMG Training content and its ethical dimensions.
Caring	Identifying and changing one's feelings, interests, and values.	Develop personal curiosity and interest in EMG Training concepts.
Learning How to Learn	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	WSU's Land-Grant Purpose	Articulates WSU's land-grant mission and the EMG Program's role.		
	Program Mission, Vision, Values and Priorities	Clearly articulates the program's mission, vision, values and priorities.		
	Becoming a Volunteer	Demonstrates clear understanding of the expectations for becoming a volunteer.		
	Understanding Volunteering Options	Is aware of various volunteer opportunities in their county and the application of their knowledge.		
	Documentation	Documents volunteer hours and other program activities correctly using program tools.		
	Online Green School Content	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	Botany and Plant Identification	Demonstrates proficiency in using plant keys and field guides for plant identification and correctly uses plant morphological characteristics		
	Soil Science	Begins to apply soil science concepts to evaluate soil health and demonstrate knowledge of plant mineral nutrition and appropriate fertilizer use		
	Soil Improvement	Begins to troubleshoot and correct common home composting problems and apply urban soil management techniques for soil improvement		

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

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