

Tillamook County Master Gardener's Association Policies

No. 1.10
Subject: Membership
Responsibility: Co-Chairs: Membership Chair, Vice President
See Also: TCMGA By-Laws, Article II
2.24 Membership Procedures

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to set out classification and requirements for membership in the Tillamook County Master Gardener Association (TCMGA) and to clarify the status of re-certified OSU Master Gardeners. Membership classifications are set out in Article II of TCMGA By-Laws

Part 1 **Membership Year:** A membership year is January 1 thru December 31 and dues are payable by March 31. Members who have not paid annual dues by April 1 will be automatically dropped from the membership roster.

Part 2 **Active Membership:** This is a countywide organization based in Tillamook County. Anyone completing the Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener classes and residing in or about Tillamook County is an “Active Member” upon payment of dues. Anyone who has completed the Master Gardener training at some point may join TCMGA.

Part 3 **Honorary Memberships:**

- a) Extension Agents: Extension Agents are Honorary Members who are encouraged to attend meetings and to engage in discussions though they are exempt from payment of dues, have no voting power and may not hold office.
- b) Extension Staff: Extension staff, who otherwise qualify for membership may elect to pay dues and participate as Active Members.
- c) New Member Honorary Membership: All graduates of the current Master Gardener classes shall receive honorary Active Membership in the Tillamook County Chapter from January to December during their initial class year. Membership for subsequent years will be in accordance with Active Membership requirements. New Member Honorary Members are not

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required to become an active TCMGA member to be able to perform their volunteer commitment in the county.

- d) **Longevity Membership:** Any active member who is 80 years of age and has been an active Tillamook County Master Gardener Association member for 10 years will receive Longevity Membership. Members in this status are exempt from paying annual dues, but continue to hold voting power and may serve as officers in the organization. Any dues not waived by OMGA will be paid by TCMGA.

Part 4 **Associate Membership:** Associate members may be elected to the Chapter by vote of the Active Members at a chapter meeting. Associate members should be persons in the horticulture field who are not involved in the Master Gardener Program but whose interests would enrich the objectives of that program. Such members shall have no voting power and shall not be eligible to hold office.

Part 5 **Re-Certification:** Recertification qualifies the OSU Master Gardener to work in plant clinics and to answer horticulture questions for the public.

- a) The Extension Office makes Re-certification packets available to all OSU Master Gardeners in October.
- b) OSU Master Gardeners must take a total of 10 hours classroom instruction as prescribed by OSU Extension Service, Tillamook County **or**
- c) Take the Recertification Examination by the date established by OSU Extension Service, Tillamook County.
- d) OSU Master Gardeners that choose to recertify receive a sticker for their badge at the end of this year's training.
- e) There is no cost for re-certification.
- f) Recertified Master Gardeners **are not required** to become TCMGA Active members. They may volunteer exclusively for the Extension Service.
- g) Re-certified Master Gardeners who are **not** paid members of OMGA and TCMGA will not be included on the email list for notification of chapter activities, newsletter, issues and events, nor will they have access to the Members only page on the TCMGA website.
- h) Volunteers who choose not to re-certify may still be active members of OMGA/TCMGA upon payment of annual dues and may work on any projects that do not require answering questions for the public; i.e. plant clinics or public education activities.