

## Bay County Master Gardener 2017 Class

UF/IFAS Extension Bay County 2728 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Panama City, FL

### COULD YOU BE A MASTER GARDENER?

- Do you like to learn about plants, growing things, and gardening?
- Are you willing to participate in an intensive training program?
- Do you like working with people, sharing your knowledge, and offering help?
- Do you have time to train and volunteer in your community?

- Ten week course
- Every Thursday
- Class starts Sept. 7, 2017
- Class ends Nov. 9, 2017
- 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- 30 minute lunch break
- Course cost \$125.00
- Training materials included in cost

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### All about being a Master Gardener (MG) and the upcoming class in Bay County

#### WHAT DO MASTER GARDENERS DO?

Master Gardeners work closely with the County Horticulture Agent to educate homeowners in the county on residential gardening and landscaping. MGs work with the public - all ages from seniors to youth, answering questions and providing guidance over the phone or in person, participating in plant sales, Home & Garden shows, educational seminars and plant clinics, youth plant fairs, school garden projects, and many other activities.

#### DO I NEED TO HAVE A PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND TO BECOME A MASTER GARDENER?

No. You will need an interest in gardening (vegetable, landscape, flowers, etc.), enjoy working with people of all ages and backgrounds, have basic computer skills and willingness/ability to communicate with the public.

#### DO I NEED TO MAKE A FUTURE COMMITMENT ONCE I BECOME A MG?

Yes. The desire to help others is the first and absolute requirement. Second, a personal commitment to complete the class and first year volunteer hours (75 hours) is required to achieve Master Gardener certification. To maintain certification after the first year, an MG must complete 35 volunteer service and 10 continuing education hours annually.

#### WHEN AND HOW DO I ENROLL FOR THE CLASS?

We will begin to distribute MG Class applications on May 4, 2017. Enrollment is limited and selection can be competitive, so please call or e-mail us today and give us your contact information. We will notify you when applications are available.

