



MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

THINKING SAFE AND GREEN



**AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

Information given here is intended for use by program representatives, master gardeners, and those they train.



The University of California (UC) Policy on Management of Health, Safety and the Environment, dated October 28, 2005, indicates the UC is committed to achieving excellence in providing a healthy and safe work environment that ensures the protection of students, faculty, staff, visitors, the public, property, and the environment. Accomplishing this task is the responsibility of every member of the UC community, including trainers/leaders and participants in UC Programs such as the Master Gardeners.

An overview of environmental health and safety responsibilities for the Master Gardener Program is given below:

Master Gardener Environmental Health and Safety Responsibilities

- Assure effective implementation of good health and safety practices, including participant training and hazard communication.
- Identify potential hazards and when possible, correct hazards before the activity takes place.
- Notify participants of any hazards associated with the activity. Examples of activity hazards include sharp edges and pinch points, hot and cold surfaces and environments, repetitive motion injuries, over exertion of muscle groups including back strains due to lifting, blunt force trauma, electrical hazards, and slip, trip, and fall conditions.
- Provide health and safety training to activity participants.
- Instruct participants to always inspect tools and equipment for damage or disrepair. If a tool or piece of equipment fails the pre-use inspection, remove it from service.
- Demonstrate proper use of tools and equipment. When applicable, instruct activity participants to never use electric-powered tools or equipment in wet conditions or when it is raining.
- Assure participants understand how to correctly mix and use pesticides and safely handle/utilize fuels for power equipment and tools.
- Provide participants with information about proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for the tasks they will be performing.
- Be vigilant to identify and correct dangerous behaviors or conditions.
- Document, recognize, and reward participants that demonstrate safe and healthy activity practices.
- Where appropriate, integrate sustainable practices into the activity, including recycling, composting, integrated pest management, and water and energy conservation.

Participant Environmental Health and Safety Responsibilities

- As part of participating in an activity, always conduct an assessment of the activity instructions and work area to identify potential hazards and ensure your own safety.
- Before using, always inspect tools and equipment for damage or disrepair. If a tool or piece of equipment fails the pre-use inspection, remove the tool or piece of equipment from service.
- Report any potential hazards to the Master Gardener.
- Follow approved activity procedures and protocols, including those for safety, health, sustainability, PPE, and for the safe use of tools, equipment, and pesticides.
- Promote a safe and healthy environment for the activity by monitoring your behavior and correcting any unsafe or unhealthy conditions as they arise.