

Spring, 2017

Dear Rutgers Master Gardener Applicant:

Thank you for expressing interest in the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset County Master Gardener Program. Enclosed is the application for the graduating class of 2018. Additionally, you will find attached the Rutgers Master Gardener position description, pre-test and volunteer agreement.

Volunteers are particularly needed in the Somerset Extension program for the core areas listed below. Please see the attached Position Description for more information in these areas.

- Sustainable landscapes /Garden Helpline
- Youth programs such as school gardens
- Community Gardens
- Gardening with special needs populations

Please complete and return the signed application, completed pre-test and signed volunteer agreement to us no later than **June 2, 2017** either by mail or in person. After your application, pre-test and three references are received and checked, you will be called to schedule an interview. **Do not delay sending back your application as class size is limited.**

Acceptance into the program is based on the following criteria:

- *extent and type of experience (see attached 2018 Volunteer Position Description)*
- *history of volunteerism*
- *pre-test results*
- *interview*
- *references*
- *knowledge of and compatibility with the mission of Rutgers Cooperative Extension*
- *ability to work with others*
- *signing of volunteer agreement and media release*

Rutgers Master Gardener Training will begin on **September 19, 2017** and end late March or early April 2017 because of inclement weather; followed by a 100-hour internship to be completed within eighteen months from graduation.

(continued)

It is expected that you will fulfill the volunteer commitment in its entirety. If your current situation or schedule will not allow you to attend the classes and complete the 100-hour internship, please know that this program will be ongoing, therefore you should reconsider applying until your schedule clears up in the future. Please refer to the enclosed 2018 Volunteer Position Description for more information on becoming a certified Rutgers Master Gardener.

Final selection of students for the program will be made by Rutgers Cooperative Extension personnel by mid- August, at which time the \$250.00 program fee is due. If you have any additional questions about the program or requirements, please contact me at 908 526-6293 option 4.

Sincerely,

Joe Gyurian,
Horticultural Consultant