



Wondering if VIMGA is for you?



Why should I consider becoming a member?

Now that you are enrolled in the VIU Master Gardener Program, you may be wondering about joining the Vancouver Island Master Gardener Association (VIMGA). Clearly, you are already interested in gardening but do you have time and want to volunteer?

There are many benefits to becoming a member. First and foremost, you will be joining a community passionate about gardening. One member said, "I have found my people!" In addition you will have opportunities to...

- learn about gardening through research, problem solving, and conversations
- share your gardening knowledge with the public at a variety of advice clinics
- share your knowledge and learning by participating in a variety of other activities, such as writing articles, giving presentations, and assisting with projects.



What are the steps to becoming a member?

You have taken the first step by enrolling in the VIU Master Gardener Program. You can decide if you want to continue your training at the end of the course OR you can postpone it to sometime in the near future. During the course you will have opportunities to talk to VIMGA Mentors about VIMGA. After successfully completing the VIU Master Gardening course, to become a Certified Master Gardener, you will be required to complete the following by Dec. 31 of the next year:

- 65 hours of mentored, organized volunteer time providing education to the public
- Plant Identification Project
- 10 hours of education (year 2 only)
- Membership fees: Year 1: \$10; Year 2 & each subsequent year: \$40

Throughout the Master Gardener Internship you will be supported in many ways. Supports include:

- a Continuing Mentor who regularly checks in with you to answer your questions
- a Plant ID Project Mentor who provides advice on your project
- Certified Master Gardeners who lead all volunteer events and support you along the way
- District Reps organize meetings to highlight local events & volunteer opportunities.

If you have any further questions about VIMGA, please reach out to a Lead Mentor during the course.