**Policy Statement**

**Madison County Master Gardener**

**Volunteer Hour Requirements**

Membership in the Association of Madison County Master Gardeners is open to all persons who complete the required course of study and the required volunteer hours.

The initial certification requires 40 hours of education which will be accounted for by the scheduled course work. You must also complete 40 hours of volunteer service relating to horticulture. At least 20 of those service hours must be on official Madison County Master Gardener projects. Therefore, a total of 80 hours half education and half service will qualify you for certification.

Once you are a Certified TN Extension Master Gardener, a total of 25 service hours and an additional 8 hours of continuing education are required for annual re-certification. At least 15 of those service hours must be on official Madison County Master Gardener projects. Attendance at a monthly meeting qualifies as continuing education since educational topics are scheduled for a portion of each gathering.

The Rules and Bylaws of the Association of Master Gardeners of Madison County state the following:

“The purpose of the Association shall be to support and engage in the projects and activities which foster horticulture, horticulture related activities or any other projects and activities which it may deem to be advisable to engage in and will enhance the quality of life of the residents of Madison County, Tennessee. Such projects and activities shall be in cooperation with the University of Tennessee Extension.”

It is the policy of the Association to consider requests for horticultural assistance from various individuals and civic organizations and institutions. If the request is approved by the Association’s Board of Directors, the request is submitted to the Association’s membership for their collective and individual consideration. These projects are the “official” projects. They are identified to the community at large as “Master Gardener” projects, and require the volunteer’s best efforts to uphold the high standards of our Association.

