

January 2020

Dear Future Gardeners:

The Junior Master Gardener Committee is excitedly making final plans for the annual Grow Team Program to be held at the Monmouth County Agriculture Building, 4000 Kozloski Road in Freehold. The program is for children ages 9 to 11 years. Your child will enjoy a fun-filled and unique eight-week gardening program which will include hands-on experiences in both the classroom and in the garden under the supervision of certified Rutgers Master Gardeners. Children completing all eight weeks of this program will receive certification as Junior Master Gardeners.

The topics covered in the program include Seeds and Plant Benefits, Plant Growth and Development, Soils and Water, Ecology and Environmental Horticulture, Landscape Horticulture, Insects and Plant Disease, Vegetables, Herbs and Fruit and Harvesting. Your child will enjoy unlocking the mysteries of seed germination, learning how to propagate plants, experimenting with soil composition, creating a vermicompost container, dissecting flowers and seeds to see how they work, examining and identifying insects, and harvesting their gardens.

Upon completion of the program, the children are encouraged to return to the garden to harvest produce for their families or for donation to local food banks. Children may also enter their produce in the Monmouth County Fair Home Gardeners' competition in July and will be shown how to prepare their entries.

The Grow Team Program will be held on Saturday mornings with classroom drop-off at 9:15 a.m. at the rear entrance to the Agriculture Building. Pick up time at the garden is 12:30 p.m. The classes are scheduled for May 2, May 9, May 16, May 30, June 6, June 13, June 20 and June 27, 2020. There is a \$30.00 registration fee (additional siblings are \$25.00 each) and class size is limited to 18 children.

Please complete and return the enclosed application and media release with the registration fee by January 31, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Monmouth County at 732-431-7260. We look forward to seeing your child in the garden.

Sincerely,

Tom Lang

Tom Lang, Chair  
Junior Master Gardener Committee  
Rutgers Master Gardeners of Monmouth County

*Volunteer through Horticulture*

