



COURSE INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE read the following document in its entirety. Thanks.

Welcome to the *Preparing for Wildfires with Firescaping*: Master Gardener training! The goal of this project is to increase southeastern WUI homeowner and community wildfire preparedness through an innovative education-based approach on fire-resistant landscaping, or firescaping. The real impact of this project will come with the implementation of the Master Gardener firescaping training in southeastern US counties at greatest risk to wildfire (see Appendix B for at-risk counties in your state) and resulting Master Gardener firescaping outreach and education efforts in their communities. Many of these at-risk counties also have active Master Gardener programs underway. The training, however, can be implemented in any county where there is interest. Join other educators in helping make the southeastern US more fire-adapted and better prepared for wildfires!

The Master Gardener Firescaping training contains two parts:

1. Online training (for Extension and other educators only)
2. Firescaping Training Toolbox (used to train Master Gardeners or Master Naturalists or other community groups)

1. ONLINE TRAINING FOR EXTENSION EDUCATORS

Overview: The online training is only for Extension Agents or other educators, or a train-the-trainer type course. It is not designed to train Master Gardeners and other community groups. Instead, the online training was designed to increase knowledge of various fire-related topics so Master Gardener State and County Coordinators (and other educators) can teach or host the *Preparing for Wildfires with Firescaping* training to Master Gardeners. Though materials in the Firescaping Training Toolbox (used to train Master Gardeners) are similar to the online training, they are not as comprehensive as the online training.

The asynchronous, online educator training includes 5 chapters, each with a video presentation, supplemental resources, and a short chapter evaluation. The first 4 chapters provide an overview on wildland fire history and behavior, the Wildland-Urban Interface, and Risk Assessment, laying a foundation for the importance and practice of firescaping (chapter 5). The online training also includes a pre and post-test, appendices, and course evaluation. Each online chapter includes interactive questions. The video pauses when the question appears. Simply select the correct answer(s) using your mouse and the video will resume. You can make multiple attempts to answer questions. The only items educators need to download are the located in the Training Toolbox. To access the Training Toolbox, most components of the online training must be completed. See below.

Steps for completing the online training and accessing the Firescaping Training Toolbox:

Most online training components must be completed to access the training toolbox. Those required are noted below, while other information is optional and listed as additional reading. The online training will take approximately 4 ½ hours to complete.

1. Make sure to set up a free account on the “**Getting Started**” tab of the course homepage. Required.
2. Take the **Pre-Test** first (must receive a 40% or greater to pass. Multiple attempts allowed. No time limit). Required.
3. Next, work through **Chapters 1-5** in order. For each chapter, you must:
 - a. Watch video and answer all questions correctly during the video (multiple attempts allowed. No time limit and no required grade to pass. The video pauses when the question appears. Simply select the correct answer and the video resumes). Required for each chapter.
 - b. Complete the chapter evaluation. Required for each chapter.
 - c. Review additional resources for each chapter (optional reading). Not required.
4. Review materials in the **Appendices**, especially the at-risk counties in your state (optional reading). Not required.
5. Complete the **Post-Test** (must receive an 80% or greater to pass. Multiple attempts allowed. No time limit). Required.
6. Complete the **Course Evaluation**. Required.
7. Receive your **Certificate of Completion**. Required.

After completing all required elements, you can access the Firescaping Training Toolbox!

2. FIRESCAPING TRAINING TOOLBOX

Overview: The Preparing for Wildfires with Firescaping training is designed to be an in-person, day long training for Master Gardener volunteers (or Master Naturalists and other community groups) who have already completed their core curriculum (see suggested agenda). It is especially useful as an advanced training opportunity for Master Gardener volunteers.

The Training Toolbox provides all materials necessary to deliver the training. There are several files in the Toolbox and some of the files are quite large, so all files have been placed in 2-3 compressed folders to make it easier to download toolbox components in just a few steps. After downloading, please read the Toolbox Overview PDF for more information about identifying and using various components of the toolbox.

A few of the several toolbox components:

- Suggested agenda
- Marketing materials
- Training contacts
- Powerpoint presentations (with presenter notes on ppt)
- Training activity handouts and support resources
- Handouts for Master Gardeners
- Suggested Master Gardener volunteer activities

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