



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

2026 Gold Star Award

SDSU Extension Master Gardener Advisory Council

The Gold Star Award is a prestigious award recognizing those outstanding individuals that exemplify the mission of South Dakota Master Gardeners and honors their continuous dedication, enthusiasm, and service to the SDSU Extension Master Gardener program.

Our Mission: SDSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers are trained to provide research-based horticultural information to help others improve the quality of their lives and surroundings through education and activities.

Nomination Guidelines

- Nominations for Gold Star Awards must be submitted by a fellow Master Gardener(s) familiar with the nominee's length of service, involvement, and dedication to the program.
- If you choose to nominate someone for a Gold Star Award, you are encouraged to inform them about the nomination. This will help ensure that the nominee's volunteer hours are up to date in the Better Impact Reporting System and gives the nominator the chance to ask questions about their activities and service.
- Nominee must be an Active Master Gardener as defined in the SDSU Extension Master Gardener Program Policy Guide <https://extension.sdstate.edu/sdsu-extension-master-gardener-program-policy-guide>.
- Nominees must have at least 5 years of active service as a SDSU Master Gardener to be nominated.
- Active status, years of service, and hours of volunteer service will be verified by SDSU Extension.
- Gold Star Award nominations will be rated by the Gold Star Committee, made up of fellow SDSU Extension Master Gardeners. Recipients will be determined by criteria scores.
- Gold Star Awards will be presented at the annual SDSU Extension Master Gardener Update Conference in Sioux Falls, SD on Saturday, October 3, 2026.
- The Gold Star Committee will determine the number of Gold Star Award recipients selected each year. This should be around 6 recipients, however the Gold Star Committee can award a few more or a few less based on the quality of applicants.
- Nominations are due August 15, 2026.
- Nominee's name is to be included in the filename. Email nomination form and any accompanying narrative to: SDSU.sdmg@sdstate.edu

SDSU Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer in accordance with the nondiscrimination policies of South Dakota State University, the South Dakota Board of Regents and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Learn more at extension.sdstate.edu.

© 2024, South Dakota Board of Regents

MC-04316



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

2026 Gold Star Award Evaluation Criteria

SDSU Extension Master Gardener Advisory Council

Provided by SDSU Extension

- Years of Service (0-10 points).
- Lifetime Hours of Volunteer Service (0-20 points).
- 2024-2025 Hours of Volunteer Service (0-10 points).

Provided by Person Submitting Nomination

- Service to the Master Gardener Program (0-10 points)
- Service to the Community (0-10 points)
- Leadership (0-10 points)
- Personal Professional Development (0-5 points)

Nominee for Award: _____

Does the nominee have at least 5 years of service as an SDSU Extension Master Gardener? Yes No

City: _____

Club Affiliation: _____

Person Submitting Nomination: _____

City: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please answer all questions. A separate Word document may be used, but please reference the question number.

1. In which year did the nominee become a certified SDSU Extension Master Gardener?
2. **Service to Master Gardener Program (0 to 10 Points)**
Describe how the nominee has helped to support and improve the SDSU Extension Master Gardener Program. Examples may include attending club meetings, mentoring interns, involvement in club projects, etc.
3. **Service to Community (0 to 10 Points)**
What community services has the nominee accomplished? Examples may include working at local events (such as farmers markets), writing articles, community garden advisor, horticulture judging at fairs, hosting educational activities, etc.
4. **Leadership (0 to 10 Points)**
How has the nominee provided leadership to the Master Gardener program? Examples may include holding local or state positions, chairing major committees, organizing major events, etc.
5. **Personal Professional Development (0 to 5 Points)**
What professional improvement activities has the nominee engaged in to expand their own gardening knowledge? Examples may include attending the annual SDSU Extension Master Gardener Update Conference, attending Regional or International Master Gardener Conferences, taking part in available learning opportunities such as Lunch & Learn, Garden Hour, webinars, etc.

Thank you for taking time to nominate this individual! Please save this nomination form and accompanying narrative using the **nominee's name in the filename**.

Please email nomination forms to: sdsu.sdmg@sdstate.edu
Nominations forms are due by August 15, 2026.