Gardening with the Masters: A Blue Ribbon Junior Master Gardener® Program

Cultivating Youth and Communities through Gardening!
Florida Master Gardener
Continued Training Conference

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What is JMG®

- Texas A&M University developed, used nationwide
- Level 1 released August 1997
- Engages children in "hands-on" group and individual learning experiences
  - Provides a love of gardening, develops an appreciation for the environment, life skills

“The terms, Junior Master Gardener, JMG and Golden Ray Series, and associated logos, are service marks of the Texas Cooperative Extension”
Program Purpose

- Youth explore world through horticultural and environmental science activities
- Encourage leadership development, personal pride, responsibility, community involvement
- Enables youth to make positive contribution to home, community and country
Junior Master Gardener® Program

Cultivating Youth and Communities through Gardening!
Curricula allows flexibility on incorporating curriculum into current youth programming
- Program enrichment material
- Obtain certification
To get started – Step 1

Identify a leader or teacher willing to be the contact for the JMG group
The JMG® Group Leader

- Provide leadership
- Register group (county, state, nationally)
- Share knowledge, find resources
- Report
- Complete Volunteer Screening
  - Provide safe, positive environment
  - School, 4-H agent
- Use teen leaders and previously certified JMGers to help teach
Starting – Step 2

Identify a group of youth
(home/public school group, 4-H club, after-school program, Boy/Girl Scouts, YMCA, faith based groups)

- Minimum of 5 youth
- No restriction on who can participate
Starting – Step 3

Obtain the JMG curriculum

Choose a curriculum based upon the age and skill level of the youth
Starting – Step 4

Register JMG group

- Registration packet (4 pages)
- Appendix of JMG curricula
- JMG website http://www.jmgkids.us
Why should I register my group?

- Free to register (fast/easy)
- No annual fees
- Not obligated to complete the program
- Receive program updates and information
- Registering allows FL and TX to know where program is working
Registered JMG® Groups

- Receive registration certificate
- Youth eligible for Certification and Recognition
- Free monthly newsletter
- Apply for JMG awards and contests (state and national)
- Eligible to win monthly garden give-aways
Starting – step 5

Dig In and Get Growing!
- When start
- Length of time to complete
Cost

- Each group cost different – depends on
  - Number of youth
  - Type of activities / type of garden
- Factors to consider:
  - Registration is Free
  - Curriculum Cost
    - Quantity discount
    - Group sets / Checklists
  - Cost of activity and garden supplies
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Curriculum
JMG® Curricula – Design

- Curriculum is fun for youth
- Incorporates
  - Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts
  - Group and individual activities
  - Service learning and leadership
- Curriculum – state standards
Levels – age relevant activities

- **Level 1 (for grades 3-5)**
  - JMG Core Curriculum
  - Golden Ray Series (Health and Nutrition from the Garden, Wildlife Gardener, Literature in the Garden)

- **Level 2 (for grades 6-8)**
  - Operation Thistle
  - Operation W.A.T.E.R.

- **Level 3 (for grades 9-12) – under development**
JMG® Curricula – Level One

3rd – 5th grade

- Youth Handbook (192 p)
- Teacher/Leader guide (416 p)
- More than 400 hands-on activities
- Available in Spanish
Level One

Focuses on horticultural and environmental education through hands-on activities in 8 areas

- Plant Growth and Development
- Soil and Water
- Ecology and Environmental Horticulture
- Insects and Diseases
- Landscape Horticulture
- Fruits and Nuts
- Vegetables and Herbs
- Life Skills and Career Exploration
Level One

The JMG Teacher Guide contains

- Activities / rhythms
- Community service and leadership projects
- Chapter worksheets/fun pages
- Registration forms
- Information on working with youth and 4-H program information
Level One Teacher/Leader Guide

Variety of teaching concepts

Level 1 Chapter 1 – Plant Growth and Development teaching concepts:

- Leadership/Community Service Projects
- Importance and Use of Plant
- Plant Classification
- Plant Parts
- Plant Needs
- Plant Growth
- Plant Process
- Propagation
Level One Youth Handbook

- Contains individual activities (compliment Leader guide)
- Leadership/community service projects listed at end of each chapter
- JMG Handbook encouraged but not required (group book/checklist)
Level One Youth Handbook

- Youth self-direct their learning, focus on what is interesting to them
- Curriculum encourages parental involvement
  - Youth using handbook can have parents validate activity completion
Sample Activity: Grow Cards

- Chapter 3 - Ecology and Environmental Horticulture
- Create card using recyclable materials and seeds
- Each card can be planted and will grow

Other Activities
- Hamburger Plant
- Earth Apple
- Suck-a-Bug! (Bug Catcher)
Level One Golden Ray Series
Health and Nutrition from the Garden

- **Stand alone** *(Teacher/leader guide 230 p)*
- **Curriculum chapters**
  - Thrifty Gardens
  - Basic Gardening
  - Growing Techniques
  - Food Safety
  - ABC’s of Healthy Eating
  - Healthy Snacks
Level One Golden Ray Series

Literature in the Garden

- **Stand alone** (Teacher/leader guide 224 p)
- Garden, ecology-themed books
- Inspire learning through outdoor activities, creative expression, open exploration
- Encourage leadership development, individual responsibility, community involvement, critical thinking skills
Level One Golden Ray Series
Wildlife Gardener

- **Stand alone** (Teacher/leader guide 230 p)
- JMG / National Wildlife Federation created
- Learn about wildlife habitat needs; develop a greater appreciation for environment
- Program ends in a community service project, students develop a site recognized by NWF as a Certified Habitat
Level Two

Operation Thistle: Seeds of Despair
Plant Growth and Development
6th – 8th grade

- Combines teacher/leader guide with youth handbook (reproducible 221 p)
- Youth investigate plant growth and development, service learning projects, earn certification; mission – defeat Dr. Thistle!
Level Two
Operation Thistle: Seeds of Despair

- Activities – Plant Growth and Development
- Teaching Concepts Include:
  - Importance and Use of Plants
  - Plant Classification
    - Plant Parts
    - Plant Needs
    - Plant Growth
  - Plant Processes
  - Seep Propagation
  - Vegetative Propagation
  - Life Skills and Career Exploration
Level Two - Activities

- Making Plastic
- Scavenger Hunt
- Model Blooms (Flower Dissection)
Level Two

Operation Water: Dr. Thistle Goes Underground

6th – 8th grade

- Combines teacher/leader guide with youth handbook (204 pp.)
- Youth participate in hands-on activities focusing on Soil and Water concepts
Level Two Operation W.A.T.E.R.

Teaching Concepts Include:

- Soil texture
- Aquifers
- Watersheds
- Wetlands
- Soil nutrients
- Water cycle
- Soil improvement
- Soil structure
- Water & soil conservation
Web activity Level One

That’s Gross!! – example from Insect and Diseases chapter

Do you like bugs? Do you like to eat bugs? I bet you said no! Well, even if you don’t like to eat them, you probably are!
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is a part of the U.S. government that makes sure the foods we eat are safe. They have set up rules that allow certain numbers of unavoidable defects in our food. One of those defects is insect parts! That’s right, you could be eating bugs right now!

To figure out how many insects are in our food, we are going to use a chart made by the FDA. This chart is called the Food Defect Action Levels. This means that if a government inspector finds more than what the FDA says is ok, then the producer can’t sell that food. So, the numbers that we are going to use are the most parts that can legally be in our food. We may not actually be eating that much, but you never know!

Want to know if you are eating bugs? If you dare,
Web activity Level 2

- Example Germ–Animation
  - Answer questions about how a seed germinates and grows
  - Once answered youth click on the growth accelerator button
  - Causes time to accelerate showing growth for 12 days
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Recognition Opportunities
Recognition Opportunities

- Certified Junior Master Gardener
- Golden Ray Series Certification
- JMG Recognition Medals
Certification – Level One

- Certified JMG
  - Highest level
  - Registered JMG group
  - Free

- Complete 1 group activity, 1 individual activity per learning concept & chapter
- Complete 1 community service/ leadership project per chapter
Certification – Level One

- Curriculum contains 8 chapters & 44 teaching concepts
  - Complete 44 group activities, 44 individual activities, 8 community service/leadership projects to become certified JMGer
- Submit JMG Completion Form to State JMG Coordinator and National JMG Program office
Golden Ray Series℠ Certification

- Focus on 1 chapter or topic
- Receive certification in
  - Any 1 or all 8 chapters of Level One
  - Health and Nutrition from the Garden
  - Wildlife Gardener
  - Literature in the Garden
  - Growing a Vegetable Garden
Golden Ray Series℠ Certification

- Belong to a registered JMG group
- Complete any combination of 12 activities (group, individual, or a combination)
- Complete 1 life skill/career exploration activity from chapter 8
- Participate in 1 community service project
- Submit JMG Completion Form to State JMG Coordinator and National JMG Program office
Growing a Vegetable Garden Certification (new)

- Belong to a registered JMG group
- Complete 13 specific activities:
  - Hamburger Plants (p.3)
  - Know & Show Sombrero (p.4)
  - Plant Parts Rap (p.8)
  - Oxygen Factory (p.17)
  - Small & Large (p.160)
  - Paper Towel Gardening (p.165) or Tender Transplants (p.167)
  - Building Bins & Compost Sandwiches (p.31)
  - Plant a Seed (p.199)
  - 1 service project

- Submit JMG Completion Form to State JMG Coordinator and National JMG Program office
JMG® Recognition Medals

- Extra recognition
- Chapter medal for any of 8 chapters in JMG Level 1 for completing any 6 activities from the Teacher/Leader Guide, Youth handbook, or a combination
JMG® Recognition Medals

- Service Crest Medal – complete a service project for any of the 8 chapters of the JMG curriculum
- Medals fit together with chapter medals

Service Crest

Service Crest and Chapter Medal
JMG® Recognition Medals

- Youth completing Golden Ray can purchase Golden Ray Shield medals
- Medals fit with chapter medals and service crest

Golden Ray Shield

Golden Ray Shield, Service Crest, and Chapter Medal
Certification – Level Two

- Belong to a registered JMG group
- For each of 8 learning concepts complete
  - 1 group activity
  - 1 community service/leadership development project
  - 1 life skill and career exploration activity
- Submit JMG Completion Form to State JMG Coordinator and National JMG Program office
Junior Master Gardener® Program

Cultivating Youth and Communities through Gardening!

JMG Garden Shop
JMG®, Garden Shop

More than just curriculum!

- Medals
- T-shirts
- Polo shirts
- Note cards
- Hats
JMG® Garden Shop

To order JMG items:

By Phone: 1-888-JMG-KIDS

By Mail: JMG Kids
4066 State Hwy 6 South
College Station, TX 77845

On-Line: http://www.jmgkids.us/
For More Information

- Your county extension office
- Tom Wichman, twichman@ufl.edu, (352) 392-1831 ext 331
- Junior Master Gardener Program
  http://www.jmgkids.us/
  programinfo@jmgkids.us

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