

**By David Lott**

*Extension Educator*

Are you yearning for spring

and the growing season? Beat the winter doldrums by attending University of Nebraska-Lincoln Master Gardener classes starting Tuesday, Feb. 5, at the Lincoln-Logan-McPherson Extension Office at 348 W. State Farm Road in North Platte.

Gardening enthusiasts can participate by attending individual classes at \$10 per class. Participants can enjoy attending the classes of their choice to increase their personal horticultural knowledge. Here is a list of the class dates and topics.

- Feb. 5 – Impact of Bees in Gardens and Landscapes
- Feb. 12 – Adapted Native Plants in Landscapes
- Feb. 19 – Drought Recovery and Water Wise Landscaping Practices
- Feb. 26 – Soils and Soil Management
- March 5 – Lawn Disease and Insect Control
- March 12 – Container Gardening
- March 19 – Household Insects and Bedbugs
- March 26 – Pesticide Mode of Action
- April 2 – Fruit Crop Management

Please register to the Lincoln-Logan-McPherson Extension Office by calling (308) 532-2683, indicating which classes each participant will attend by Tuesday, Feb. 5. Please arrive at 6:15 p.m., CST. All classes will start promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Individuals who would like to participate in the entire workshop series and become a UNL Extension Master Gardener may register for the entire series for \$150. This fee includes the Master Gardener Handbooks, state dues, an official Master Gardener shirt and name badge.

Along with training, new Master Gardener trainees participate in group volunteer projects established by the local Master Gardener program. Twenty hours of volunteer service will need to be completed in 2013. This requirement is easily reached by participating in the group's activities and as well as approved individual activities that a Master Gardener may want to carry out on their own.

Returning and lapsed Master Gardeners who have completed the initial first-year training may attend all of the 2013 programs for an individual one-time fee of \$15. Twenty hours of volunteer service and attendance at classes is required to retain Master Gardener certification.

For questions, send an e-mail message to david.lott@unl.edu, or call (308) 532-2683.