

# Ohio State University Extension

Master Gardener Volunteer Emeritus Status

## State Minimum Requirements – 2025

### Definition

- **Emeritus:** Retired or honorably discharged from active professional duty while retaining the title of one's office or position.
- **MGV Emeritus:** A Master Gardener Volunteer who has retired or resigned for a valid reason from the MGV program but retains the title.
- **Semi-Active Emeritus:** A volunteer who has been granted emeritus status but chooses to remain **partially engaged** in the program.
- **MGV Emeriti:** Plural form of Emeritus.

### Minimum Requirements for MGV Semi-Active and Emeritus Status

- **Service Requirement:** A minimum of **10 years** of service or **500 volunteer hours** in the county MGV program.
- **Good Standing:** Must be a certified MGV in good standing (see MGV policy statement for criteria).
- **Distinguished Service:** Demonstrated leadership, wisdom, and dedication to the county MGV program and OSU Extension.
- **Nomination Process:** Nominations may be submitted by active MGVs and/or OSUE staff. Each county determines its process for awarding this status.

### Key Guidelines for Semi-Active and Emeritus Status

- Status is honorary and should be awarded sparingly.
- All emeriti may continue to receive county MGV program benefits, materials, communications, and opportunities.
- Final decisions rest with the county ANR Educator, who may add additional requirements beyond state minimums.
- The state support fee is waived for Emeritus members; counties may choose to collect local dues.



## Emeritus Participation Options

- **Semi-Active Emeritus:** May volunteer and participate as personal circumstances allow. Hours must be recorded in Hands on Connect; annual recertification is required. Note: If inactive for three or more years, a background check is required before resuming semi-active Emeritus status.
- **Emeritus:** No volunteer activities; may attend meetings and continuing education at county discretion. Note: After three or more years as Emeritus, a background check is required to resume active status.

### Summary Table

Status	Receives Benefits & Communications	Reports Hours	Continues to Volunteer	Recertification Required	Background Check Required
Semi-Active Emeritus	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes**
Emeritus	Yes*	No	No	No	No

\* At county discretion

\*\* Required if inactive for three or more years before returning to semi-active or active status