

**National EarthKind™ Specialist
Coordinator/Sponsor: Debbie Frost
Texas Cooperative Extension
Odessa, Texas**

Specialist Program Purpose and information:

The National EarthKind™ Specialist program is designed to provide advance training and resources to Master Gardeners and Rosarians to certify them to be part of a state and national corps of EarthKind™ experts and educators. To become a certified National EarthKind™ Specialist, participants are required to attend the National EarthKind™ Specialist training to fulfill training requirements and subsequently meet service requirements described below. This certification does not empower the individual with supervisory or administrative authority within her/his local county programs.

Participation requirements:

To be eligible for the National EarthKind™ Specialist training, an individual must possess an up-to-date Master Gardener certification, be an employee of the Texas Cooperative Extension or a rosarian with an American Rose Society. Master Gardener applicants must be approved by their local County Extension Agent.

Position Description and Service Requirements:

The National EarthKind™ Specialist is charged to increase awareness, provide training in EarthKind™, and facilitate implementation of EarthKind™ practices on a home/neighborhood/community level on a demonstration or research purposes. A National EarthKind™ Specialist is required to serve a minimum of one year.

Service requirements include, but are not limited to:

Serving as a local National EarthKind™ Specialist resource.

Assisting with EarthKind™ training for Master Gardeners and rosarians.

Support or organize home/community/neighborhood EarthKind™ education programs and/or demonstrations.

Increase clientele awareness and implementation of EarthKind™ through: presentation, training, and mass media efforts (i-e. radio, newspaper, television, and newsletters).

Specialist recognition and certification:

Upon completion of the National EarthKind™ Specialist service requirements, the Master Gardener will be formally recognized at the annual Texas Master Gardener Conference, at which time they will be awarded a Master Gardener Specialist certificate and lapel pin.