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**Master Gardeners Set to Grow Yukon Agriculture**

WHITEHORSE – This summer, the latest graduates of the Yukon government’s Master Gardener course will be pulling out their trowels and spades to cultivate growth of Yukon’s agriculture sector.

“I congratulate this year’s graduates of the Master Gardener program,” Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Brad Cathers said. “This long-standing program is one of the many ways the Yukon government supports local agriculture.”

Participants from southern Yukon spent 40 hours this spring learning horticultural subjects such as plant botany and physiology; soils; outdoor and greenhouse gardening; and pest control.

Having received their certificates of completion in mid-March, graduates are now encouraged to take their knowledge back to their communities and share it through teaching and volunteer opportunities, including running gardening clinics and home garden visits.

Master Gardener training is held annually with over 230 Yukoners participating since it began in 1997. The program is offered by the Yukon Agriculture branch. The next Master Gardener course is scheduled for winter 2010. Interested participants are encouraged to register early.

For more information about programs supporting agriculture in Yukon, or to register for the next Master Gardner course, contact the Agriculture branch at 867-667-5838, toll-free in communities by phoning 1-800-661-0408 extension 5838, or visit [www.agriculture.gov.yk.ca](http://www.agriculture.gov.yk.ca).

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