Highlights:

4333
Master Gardener volunteers

214,108
Volunteer hours, equal to 103 full time positions

97,363
North Carolinians directly reached

$6.4 MILLION
Value of volunteer service and in-kind donations

Extension Master Gardener℠ Volunteers Embody the Mission of N.C. Cooperative Extension

Across our state, Extension Master Gardener (EMG) volunteers partner with their local N.C. Cooperative Extension county center to connect people with research based information and provide practical solutions that grow NC.

They educate residents to grow healthy people, gardens, landscapes, and communities through safe, effective and sustainable gardening practices. Working with their local N.C. Cooperative Extension county center, Master Gardener volunteers:

- Empower people to make informed decisions
- Enhance local food security
- Connect children and families with nature
- Cultivate environmental stewardship
- Promote health and wellbeing through gardening, better nutrition and increased physical activity

www.NCEMGV.org

2017 ANNUAL REPORT
Extension Master Gardener℠ Volunteers in NC

Master Gardener volunteers are citizens who receive intensive training from their local N.C. Cooperative Extension county agent.

They serve as educators who expand Extension’s capacity to meet the needs of the gardening public.

In 2017, 4333 NC Extension Master Gardener volunteers:
- Attended 49,059 hours of training
- Volunteered 214,108 hours
- Directly reached 97,363 North Carolinians

Across North Carolina, their efforts help people put knowledge to work.

**Categories of Volunteer Service**

- Youth Programs: 7693 hrs
- Therapeutic Horticulture: 7420 hrs
- Public Events: 24389 hrs
- Ask an EMGV: 29450 hrs
- Plant Sales: 26444 hrs
- Community Gardens: 17448 hrs
- Demonstration and Teaching Gardens: 34587 hrs

**Examples of Extension Master Gardener volunteers at work in NC:**

**NEW HANOVER COUNTY**

**Gardening Problems? Ask An EMG Volunteer!**

What is eating my blueberries? Why can’t I grow good tomatoes? How can I attract pollinators to my garden?

Extension Master Gardener volunteers at the New Hanover County Center are on duty Monday—Friday, from 9am—4pm, to answers these and other gardening questions.

In 2017, over 7,000 New Hanover County residents contacted the Center to find sustainable, research-based solutions to their gardening problems.

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**

**EMG Volunteers Help Healing Grow at Asheville’s VA Medical Center**

Gardens and plants speed healing, reduce stress and promote well-being. Just ask patients at the Community Living Center that is part of the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville.

Buncombe County Extension Master Gardener volunteers partnered with the VA Medical Center to reclaim an overgrown area, turning it into a healing garden where patients and their families can relax, explore nature and participate in weekly therapeutic gardening activities.
CHATHAM COUNTY

Second Graders Explore the Life Cycle of Pollinators

Over 100 second graders in Chatham County gained hands-on experience rearing butterflies from caterpillars and learned about the importance of pollinators during a series of lessons taught by Extension Master Gardener volunteers.

Chatham County EMG volunteers partnered with North Carolina 4H and NC State Extension to develop the curriculum, which focused on experiential learning and aligned with the learning objectives for NC public schools.

BURKE COUNTY

Community Garden Enables Hands-On Learning

For apartment dwellers and those living in mountainous areas, finding space to cultivate a garden can be a major challenge. The community garden created and managed by Burke County Extension Master Gardener volunteers provides this space for 29 local families, making it possible for them to grow their favorite vegetables.

In addition, Master Gardener volunteer led workdays and workshops on sustainable gardening practices ensure everyone has a bountiful harvest.

JOHNSTON COUNTY

School Garden Grows Vegetables and Pride for High School Students

Extension Master Gardener volunteers worked with students enrolled in the Life Skills class at South Johnston High School to turn a sad place - an old, unused playground - into a glad place where fresh vegetables, pollinator-friendly flowers and civic pride thrive.

Throughout the year, EMG volunteers use the garden to teach students how to plan, cultivate and harvest a year around supply of healthy vegetables.

WAKE COUNTY

Classes Help Beginners Start First Vegetable Garden

One hundred thirteen Wake County residents attended “Ready, Garden, Grow”, a comprehensive vegetable gardening class designed and delivered by Extension Master Gardener volunteers.

The three hour class was held at local libraries throughout the county. Beginning gardeners attending the workshop increased their confidence levels and gained knowledge and tools needed to successfully establish their first garden.
Help Us Do More!

Donate to the NC Extension Master Gardener Volunteers’ Endowment

Established in 2015, the NC EMGV Endowment supports growth of the NC EMGV Program across North Carolina. All contributions are tax-deductible and will be utilized solely for the NC Extension Master Gardener Program.

DONATE ONLINE: go.ncsu.edu/support-ncemgv

Find your local N.C. Cooperative Extension County Center:
extension.ncsu.edu

N.C. Cooperative Extension County Centers
that offer the EMG Program

Alamance Dare Currituck
Alexander Davidson Edgecombe
Ashe Davie Forsyth
Beaufort Durham Gaston
Bertie Edgecombe Gates
Bladen Durham Granville
Brunswick Durham Guilford
Burke Gaston Halifax
Cabarrus Greensboro Harnett
Caldwell Guilford Haywood
Carteret Halifax Henderson
Catawba Hoke Hertford
Chatham Hoke Iredell
Cherokee Haywood Jackson
Chowan Henderson Johnston
Clay Hoke Lee
Cleveland Iredell Logan
Columbus Jackson Pitt
Craven Johnston Polk
Cumberland Lee Randolph
N. Carolina Cooperative Extension

Visit www.NCEMGV.org to learn more about the NC EMG Program, or contact:

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