Highlights:

3236 Master Gardener volunteers

210,781 Volunteer hours, equal to 101 full time positions

484,136 North Carolinians directly reached

$7.7 MILLION Value of volunteer service and in-kind donations

Extension Master Gardener℠ Volunteers: Growing Plants, People, and Communities

Extension Master Gardener (EMG) volunteers provide educational outreach that connects NC residents with the environmental, economic and health benefits of gardening.

Working with their local N.C. Cooperative Extension county center, EMG volunteers empower residents to cultivate healthy gardens, landscapes, and ecosystems through safe, effective and sustainable practices. Their efforts:

- Enhance local food security through home and community gardens producing vegetables, fruits and nuts;
- Beautify yards and neighborhoods while protecting water quality and conserving natural resources;
- Create habitat for pollinators, birds and wildlife;
- Connect children and families with nature while cultivating environmental stewardship;
- Promote health and wellbeing through gardening, better nutrition and increased physical activity.

emgv.ces.ncsu.edu
FORSYTH COUNTY

Third Graders Sharpen Thinking Skills During Garden Visit

Third graders in Forsyth County gained critical thinking skills while investigating different soil types, studying seeds, and observing worms during a recent visit to the Arboretum at Tanglewood Park.

Using the garden as a teaching lab, EMG volunteers led science lessons for 654 students and their teachers. When asked if they learned anything new, 93% of students answered yes. Ninety-five percent of teachers agreed the lessons helped students. One teacher said “there is no possible way we could have covered everything in our classrooms in such innovative ways.”

CHOWAN-GATES-PERQUIMANS COUNTY

“Grow to Eat” Empowers Families To Eat More Fresh Vegetables

Over 200 families have greater food security as a result of the efforts of EMG volunteers in Chowan, Gates, and Perquimans Counties.

Working in partnership with Vidant Health Foundation, local food pantries, and area schools with greenhouse programs, EMG volunteers offered food pantry clients vegetable seeds and transplants, gardening tools, information and technical support to start their own vegetable garden. At the end of the season, many families reported an increase in fresh vegetable consumption thanks to success in their garden.
DARE COUNTY

Outer Banks Residents Gain Hands-On Gardening Knowledge and Skills

Sand, sun, salt and wind make the Outer Banks a challenging place for local residents to enjoy the benefits of gardening, but EMG volunteers in Dare County partnered with Dare County public libraries, senior centers and other agencies, to offer hands-on classes and workshops to the public throughout the 108-mile-long county. Their educational programs introduced over 400 people to the health benefits of gardening while teaching them best practices for coastal gardening success.

This project was awarded first place in the Workshop Category of the International Master Gardener Search for Excellence.

GUILFORD COUNTY

Crevice Garden Brings Low Care, Sustainable Beauty To Hot, Dry Spot

Guilford County EMG volunteers transformed a dry, compacted spot at the entrance of their Demonstration Garden into a beautiful low-water use crevice garden. The modified rock garden uses stone, soil and drought-tolerant plants to bring low care beauty to difficult spaces. EMG volunteers use the garden to teach workshops on sustainable landscape options for tough sites.

This project was awarded first place in the Demonstration Garden Category of the International Master Gardener Search for Excellence.

HENDERSON COUNTY

Mini-Gardens Make Big Impact On Youth

Eight Henderson County youth ages 9—13, learned to set goals, take responsibility, apply critical thinking skills, and grow vegetables this past summer through the 4-H Mini-Garden program offered by their local Extension agent.

EMG volunteers made the program possible by offering training to young gardeners, visiting their gardens, sharing advice, and reviewing garden journals kept by program participants.

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Blog Helps Mountain Gardeners Put Knowledge To Work

Connecting people to research-based information that empowers them to make informed decisions is at the core of Extension’s mission. A new blog established and maintained by EMG volunteers in Buncombe County embodies this mission by extending Extension’s resources to over 2500 mountain residents who are subscribed to the site. Each month, volunteers post six to eight new articles on timely gardening topics and upcoming events, ensuring local residents have access to practical, trustworthy information relevant to their region.

Visit the blog: https://www.buncombemastergardener.org.
HELP US DO MORE!

Donate to the NC Extension Master Gardener Endowment

Your tax-deductible donation to the NC Extension Master Gardener Endowment provides on-going support for the EMG program, ensuring the continued success and impact of NC EMG volunteers. All contributions are greatly appreciated and funds are used solely to support the NC EMG program.

DONATE ONLINE: go.ncsu.edu/ncmastergardeners

NC EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

Formed in 1991 to improve the effectiveness of its members as NC State Extension Master Gardener volunteers, the NCEMGVA cultivates volunteer growth through a quarterly newsletter and biannual conference. The NCEMGVA has:

- 570 Members
- 62 Extension staff associate members
- 52 Delegates, alternates and officers representing 26 counties

LEARN MORE: ncemgva.org

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

- Alamance
- Alexander
- Ashe
- Beaufort
- Bertie
- Bladen
- Brunswick
- Buncombe
- Burke
- Cabarrus
- Caldwell
- Carteret
- Catawba
- Chatham
- Cherokee
- Chowan
- Clay
- Cleveland
- Columbus
- Craven
- Cumberland
- Currituck
- Dare
- Davidson
- Davie
- Durham
- Edgecombe
- Forsyth
- Gaston
- Gates
- Granville
- Greene
- Guilford
- Halifax
- Harnett
- Haywood
- Henderson
- Hoke
- Iredell
- Jackson
- Johnston
- Lee
- Lenoir
- Lincoln
- Macon
- Madison
- Martin
- McDowell
- Mecklenburg
- Montgomery
- Moore
- Nash
- New Hanover
- Onslow
- Orange
- Pamlico
- Pasquotank
- Pender
- Perquimans
- Person
- Pitt
- Polk
- Randolph
- Robeson
- Rockingham
- Rowan
- Rutherford
- Sampson
- Scotland
- Stanly
- Stokes
- Surry
- Swain
- Transylvania
- Union
- Vance
- Wake
- Warren
- Watauga
- Wayne
- Wilkes
- Wilson
- Yadkin
- Yancey

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

Visit emgv.ces.ncsu.edu to learn more about the NC EMG Program

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