

NC STATE

Extension Master Gardener

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Master Gardener volunteers in Durham County. Image by Mary Knierim

Across North Carolina, volunteers with the NC State **Extension Master Gardener**SM program strengthen Extension's delivery of research-based knowledge to North Carolinians, helping them transform science into everyday solutions that improve their lives and grow our state.

2022 SNAPSHOT



3515
Volunteers



188,718
NC residents reached



198,628
Volunteer hours



\$5.9 million
Value of volunteer time



Learn. Grow. Share.

The **EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERSM** program is a network of volunteers and Extension educators working in N.C. Cooperative Extension centers across North Carolina and on NC State campus. Through education and outreach, we connect people with the benefits of gardening and empower them to cultivate healthy plants, landscapes, ecosystems, and communities.

Here are highlights of our work from 2022.

LEARNING TO CREATE CLIMATE-READY GARDENS AND LANDSCAPES

Continuing education keeps **Extension Master Gardener (EMG)** volunteers in touch with the latest sustainable gardening practices, issues, and research. Opportunities include the [Plants, Pests & Pathogens](#) webinar series and [EMG College](#), an in-person conference held every other year.

EMG College 2022 explored issues related to gardening in a changing climate. **Master Gardener** volunteers learned about plant selection for challenging conditions, climate-resilient landscape design practices, preserving and protecting pollinators, managing stormwater in home landscapes, and educational resources they can use for Extension outreach in their communities.

Master Gardener volunteers apply and share what they learn through their volunteer work with N.C. Cooperative Extension.

[Read more](#) about EMG College 2022.



GROWING KNOWLEDGE TO PROTECT POLLINATORS



Small carpenter bee, *Ceratina cucurbitina*.
Image by gailhampshire, [CC BY 2.0](#)

Master Gardener volunteers work with Extension specialists and educators to grow our knowledge of sustainable gardening practices by taking part in citizen science and research projects. An ongoing research project is investigating how to improve pollinator overwintering habitat in residential landscapes.

Some pollinators require hollow stems to build nests for their offspring. **Master Gardener** volunteers in Chatham, Chowan, Perquimans, Cumberland, Forsyth, Lee, Vance, and Wilson counties are helping determine if changing the way we manage herbaceous perennials in the landscape can provide more of this nesting habitat.

Instead of cutting perennials all the way back in fall, they are leaving a few feet of stem above the ground. Pollinator species they have found using these stems for habitat include small carpenter bees, leafcutter bees, and potter wasps.

[Learn more](#) about this project.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACROSS NC

More than 3,500 volunteers contribute their time to the **Extension Master Gardener** program through their local N.C. Cooperative Extension center. Each year, the work of 200,000 volunteer hours reaches over 180,000 North Carolinians, helping them to learn and grow. Here are examples of some of our most in-demand volunteer service projects and their combined impact across North Carolina in 2022.



Garden Infolines & Plant Clinics

- 23,080 hours volunteered across NC
- 48,955 community members engaged

Connect with Extension educators and **Master Gardener** volunteers in your community to get answers to your gardening questions. Find their contact information in the [Garden Help Directory](#).

Classes & Educational Events

- 13,100 hours volunteered across NC
- 31,355 community members engaged

Extension offers thousands of programs each year, including the [Grow With Us series](#) taught by **Master Gardener** volunteers in Guilford County.

Demonstration Gardens

- 33,000 hours volunteered across NC
- 4,649 community members engaged

[Pollinator Haven](#) in Lee County is one of many Extension demonstration gardens **Master Gardener** volunteers cultivate for outreach and education.

Find your [county Extension center](#) to learn about upcoming events, explore Extension resources, and connect with **Master Gardener** volunteers in your community. [Learn more](#) about volunteer service across NC.

Community Gardens

- 14,165 hours volunteered across NC
- 6,848 community members engaged

Master Gardener volunteers partner with community gardens across North Carolina.

These include gardens managed by Extension, such as the [Briggs Avenue Community Garden](#) in Durham County, as well as gardens that are the result of community partnerships, such as the [Unity Park and Community Gardens](#) in Caldwell County.

Explore [community garden resources](#) from NC State Extension.

Therapeutic Horticulture

- 2,400 hours volunteered across NC
- 4,035 community members engaged

Master Gardener volunteers in Wake County lead multiple [community-based therapeutic horticulture programs](#).

Explore [therapeutic horticulture resources](#) from NC State Extension, including [online classes](#).



The [Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox](#) is a free, online plant database where you can find a wealth of information about more than 4,600 plants that grow in and around North Carolina, including [QR codes](#) that may be added to signs, labels, and educational materials.

- **Master Gardener** volunteers contributed over 1,850 service hours to enhance and expand the Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox in 2022. [Learn more](#).
- As a class project, **Master Gardener** volunteer interns in Brunswick County added QR codes from the Plant Toolbox to all of the plant labels in their [demonstration garden](#).

CONGRATULATIONS, INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNERS!

Two North Carolina **Master Gardener** volunteer projects were recognized in the [International Master Gardener Search for Excellence](#), the awards program for **Master Gardener** volunteer work across the United States, Canada, England, and South Korea.

- **Creating Connections: Education through Social Media Outreach** was awarded third place in the innovative projects category. [Learn more.](#)
- **Cocoa Cinnamon Container Garden Project** earned third place in the demonstration garden category. [Learn more.](#)



Congratulations to the MASTER GARDENER volunteers in Durham County on this recognition of their outstanding work!

LEARN MORE!

Explore an extended version of our 2022 annual report online at go.ncsu.edu/emg-impacts-2022.



JOIN US!

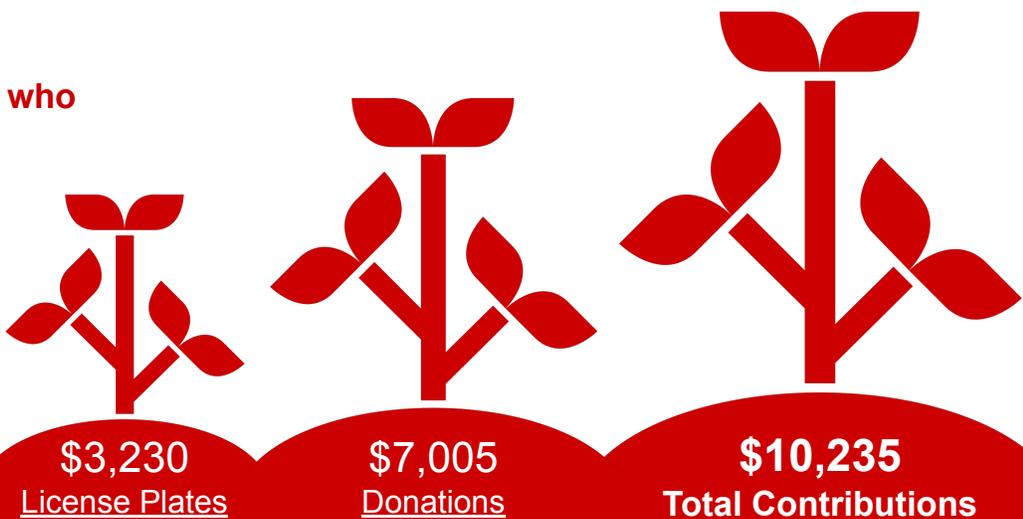
Learn how to [become a Master Gardener volunteer](#) in your community. Contact the [Extension center](#) in your county to learn when the training course will be offered and how to apply.

Visit the [Garden Help Directory](#) to connect with Extension educators and **Master Gardener** volunteers in your community.

DONATE!

Support the NC State **Extension Master Gardener** program by making a tax-deductible donation to the [NC Extension Master Gardener endowment](#). Interest income generated by your gift will help further the work of **Master Gardener** volunteers across North Carolina today and for years to come!

Our sincere thanks to everyone who donated in 2022!



CONTACT

LUCY BRADLEY, EMG Program State Director
CHARLOTTE GLEN, EMG Program State Coordinator

919-515-1226
NCEMGprogram@ncsu.edu
emgv.ces.ncsu.edu