



The Purdue Extension Master Gardener Program provides a learning framework for participants to increase their horticultural knowledge on a wide variety of subjects. In turn, participants share knowledge and provide leadership in educational gardening activities within their communities.

This is a snapshot of the impact the Purdue Extension Master Gardener program had in 2020.



2020 BY THE NUMBERS

In 2020, the 2,482 active Purdue Extension Master Gardener volunteers reported:

30,689

education
hours

97,539

volunteer hours
valued at

\$2.4 million

162,181

educational
contacts

Improving
Communities

Expanding
Opportunities

Fostering
Sustainability

Here are some of the ways the Purdue Extension Master Gardener Program impacts Indiana communities.

- Purdue Extension Master Gardeners throughout Indiana donated 55,711 pounds of produce from 109 educational demonstration gardens to local food banks to help fight food insecurity. Over 560 Purdue EMG volunteers reported 15,264 volunteer hours working in gardens that donated produce to food-insecure areas.
- Purdue Extension Master Gardeners in Hamilton County created a victory garden initiative in 2020. At the outdoor Carmel Farmers Market, over three Saturdays in April and May, EMGs distributed more than 280 seed bundles (4,200 seed packets) and the Indiana Vegetable Planting Calendar from Purdue Extension. The seed bundles included lettuce, spinach, sunflowers, watermelons, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, and basil. Over the three Saturdays the EMGs reached 500 education contacts and shared more about vegetable gardening as well as the EMG program in Hamilton County. The initiative was very successful, with positive feedback from individuals and the farmers market manager. Likewise, they installed a “free seed library” on the Hamilton County Fairgrounds as source of garden seeds for gardeners who could not visit their main seed library.


Hamilton County Extension Master Gardeners also planted and distributed 150 bucket gardens as part of their Growing Indiana’s Future Together project. The 3.5-gallon buckets were filled with soil media and planted with tomato, basil, and swiss chard plants. Purdue EMG volunteers provided bucket gardens to individuals through local food pantries with gardening education and information. To learn more about Purdue Extension Master Gardener Projects in Hamilton County, visit <https://hcmga.org/>.

- Purdue Extension Master Gardener associations awarded \$40,100 in college scholarships to students studying horticulture, agriculture, and related majors.
- Purdue Extension Master Gardeners reported several changes in gardening practices, including:
 - Using more pollinator plants and practices to protect pollinators
 - Choosing the right plant species for the right locations in their gardens and landscapes.
 - Removing and replacing invasive plant species that threaten native and desirable plant and animal populations and habitats

Find Out More

To learn more about the Purdue Extension Master Gardener Program’s impact, please contact the state coordinator or visit us online.

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