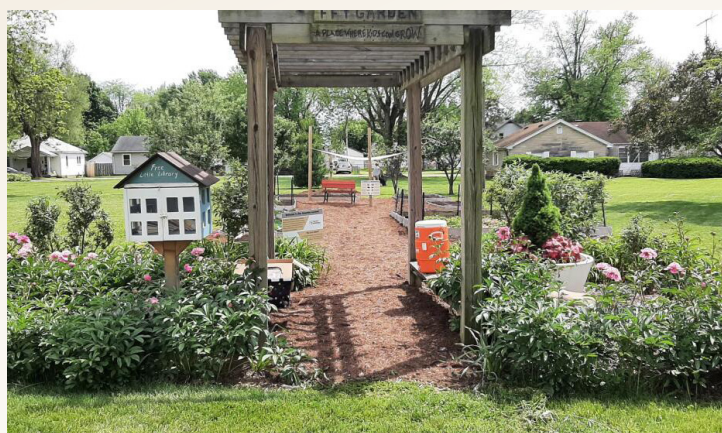




The Purdue Extension Master Gardener Program provides a learning framework for participants to increase their horticultural knowledge on a wide variety of subjects. In turn, participants share knowledge and provide leadership in educational gardening activities within their communities.

This is a snapshot of the impact the Purdue Extension Master Gardener program had in 2021.



2021 BY THE NUMBERS

In 2021, the 2,619 active Purdue Extension Master Gardener volunteers reported:

30,549

education
hours

134,591

volunteer hours
valued at

\$3.3 million

255,707

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 59,957 pounds of produce from approximately 55 educational demonstration gardens to local food banks to help fight food insecurity. Over 392 Purdue EMG volunteers reported more than 14,000 volunteer hours working in gardens that donated produce to food-insecure areas.
- Through a Growing Together Grant, South Central Indiana Master Gardeners partnered with Foundation for Youth (FFY) to improve the gardens at the boys and girls club. Over the summer, a raised bed was added and 398 youth were impacted. Three EMGs were responsible for the FFY programming. Purdue EMGs and their EMG County Coordinator worked with Harriet Armstrong, Purdue Extension Health and Human Sciences Educator, to offer the Growing Healthy Habits curriculum. A Growing Together Grant was again secured for 2022, so this program will continue to enrich lives.

"Kids, dirt, plants, seeds, being in the sunshine. What could be better!" said Purdue EMG volunteer Jan Bruner, coordinator of the FFY garden. "I get as much out of it as the kids do. They question everything (which keeps the EMG on her toes) and require repeated instructions when learning something new (EMG patience). The anticipation of watching the veggies grow sees its reward when we harvest and sample all the freshness (with a little ranch dressing). They delight in taking leftovers home."

Purdue Extension Master Gardeners in Bartholomew County are involved in a variety of initiatives, including demonstration gardens at the historical society's Henry Breeding Farm, a very successful plant sale fundraiser, and the promotion of native pollinator gardens across the county. To learn more, visit their website, www.scimga.com.

- 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.
 - Reduced yard waste headed to landfills by composting and/or leaving grass clippings on the lawn

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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