



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 2023.



2023 BY THE NUMBERS

In 2023, the 2,705 active Purdue Extension Master Gardener volunteers reported:

35,953

education
hours

168,399

volunteer hours
valued at

\$4.8 million

349,423

educational
contacts

Improving
Communities

Expanding
Opportunities

Fostering
Sustainability

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

- More than 285 Purdue Extension Master Gardener volunteers reported 12,055+ volunteer hours working in 64 educational demonstration gardens and donated 43,570 pounds of produce to local food banks to help fight food insecurity.
- Purdue Extension Master Gardener associations awarded \$34,850 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
 - Removed or replaced invasive species from their landscapes and gardens
- The Purdue Extension Master Gardeners in Noble County work hard to reach across their whole community, from youth to adults. They are truly "Helping Others Grow!" Here are a few examples of the ways their EMG volunteers make an impact on local residents.

The **Chain O'Lakes Donation Garden** is managed jointly by Master Gardeners and residents of the Chain O'Lakes Re-Entry Center in Noble County. Selected residents can take a winter gardening class, learn hands-on in the greenhouse, and grow the donation garden in the summer. Last year more than 7,000 pounds of clean, packaged produce from their garden was donated to the local food pantry. Six of the men at the facility took the Purdue Extension Master Gardener Basic Training in fall 2023. All six passed and became active Purdue Extension Master Gardeners. Read more of their story: <https://purdue.ag/chainolakes-garden>

The **Community Garden in Kendallville** is a joint effort between the Noble County Master Gardeners and the Community Learning Center. The EMGs help plant and maintain the garden alongside city residents, who can reap the benefits of the garden. They have big plans, including raised beds, more signage, and more educational opportunities for the community. **Kendallville's Herb Garden** showcases a variety of herbs, which are labeled and can be enjoyed by the whole community!

Noble County EMGs teach youth about gardening through a **Junior Master Gardener program** at West Noble Middle School, leading sessions for a **4-H Mini Camp** and organizing multiple garden workshops for 4-H'ers in the spring.

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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