



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 2024.



## 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

In 2024, the 2,745 active Purdue Extension Master Gardener volunteers reported:

**37,043**

education  
hours

**172,338**

volunteer hours  
valued at

**\$5.1 million**

**374,709**

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 315 Purdue Extension Master Gardener volunteers reported 24,122+ volunteer hours working in 84 educational demonstration gardens and donated 37,795 pounds of produce to local food banks to help fight food insecurity.
- Purdue Extension Master Gardener associations awarded \$39,250 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
- A group of Purdue Extension Master Gardener (EMG) volunteers from Allen County provided gardening education at a local educational center for adults with disabilities, the Life Adult Day Academy! Purdue Extension Educator, Cora Hill, and EMG volunteers taught gardening lessons ranging from planting seeds to providing pollinator habitat for the participants. Students in the program were able to take home plant starts as well as mason bee houses they made in class. The students were an excellent group and Purdue EMG volunteers are excited to see what impacts they will make on their homes and communities with their new gardening knowledge!

Purdue EMG volunteers in Allen County also manage the Heritage Vegetable Garden located at the Purdue Extension Office in Ft. Wayne, IN. In the Heritage Vegetable Garden, Purdue EMG volunteers grow produce and donate it to the food pantry located on the Purdue University, Fort Wayne campus. In 2024, Purdue EMGs donated 294 pounds of produce to the pantry and hosted an educational workshop on starting your own vegetable garden with 37 people in attendance. Purdue EMG volunteers in Allen County make great impacts in the local community as they teach others about home horticulture!

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## Find Out More

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

John Orick, Purdue Extension Master Gardener State Coordinator,  
Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture  
orick@purdue.edu • 765-496-7956 • [purdue.ag/master-gardener](http://purdue.ag/master-gardener)



@purduemastergardener



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