MSU Extension Master Gardener Program  
~ 2018 Summary ~

Total Participants in the MSU Extension Master Gardener Program: 3,507

Number of Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs): 2,974
  Counties with MSU Extension Master Gardeners: 79

Number of new volunteers trained: 533
  Counties with new trainees: 47
  Training locations: 13 (Alpena, Ann Arbor, Belleville, Clinton Township (2),
  Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Houghton, Howell, Portage, Traverse City,
  Waterford)

Number of reported personal contacts by EMGs educating other: 616,306

Volunteer hours: 157,430 hours
  Economic Value\(^1\): $3.89 M

Focus areas for volunteer projects:
  • Environmental stewardship
    o Examples: protecting and preserving water quality, invasive species education,
      environmentally friendly pest management, native plants
  • Improving food security
    o Examples: community gardens, teaching citizens how to grow their own food
      for better nutrition and health; giving gardens
  • Improving community
    o Examples: beautification, improving quality of life
  • Youth development through gardening
    o Examples: Junior Master Gardener, school gardens, after-school programs
  • Supporting MSU Extension
    o Examples: Smart Gardening, Ask an Expert, State Lawn and Garden Hotline,
      assisting with classes

Continuing education hours: 44,500 hours

Additional contributions: (in-kind contributions)
  • Miles driven by EMGs for their volunteer efforts: 918,274
  • Economic value\(^2\): $128,558

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF THE MSU EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM
TO THE STATE OF MICHIGAN: $4.02 M

\(^1\) Independent Sector Value of a Volunteer Hour: $24.14
\(^2\) Federal charitable mileage rate: $.14 / mile