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 Value1: $3.89 M

Focus areas for volunteer projects:

- Environmental stewardship
  - Examples: protecting and preserving water quality, invasive species education, environmentally friendly pest management, native plants

- Improving food security
  - Examples: community gardens, teaching citizens how to grow their own food for better nutrition and health; giving gardens

- Improving community
  - Examples: beautification, improving quality of life

- Youth development through gardening
  - Examples: Junior Master Gardener, school gardens, after-school programs

- Supporting MSU Extension
  - 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 value2: $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: $24.69
2 Federal charitable mileage rate: $.14 / mile