

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

IMPACTING YOUTH, LIFE QUALITY, HEALTH, AND COMMUNITIES



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION
Master Gardener Program

2,036
active GA MGEVs

159,990
volunteer
service hours

\$5,087,682
given back to
GA communities

GROWING A BETTER GEORGIA FROM THE GROUND UP

LEARN

- 13 counties recruited and trained 270 new volunteers

SERVE

- Extended education focused on 5 Program Priorities: Environmental Stewardship, Gardening with Youth, Home Food Production, Health Benefits of Gardening, and Value of Landscapes
- 216,665 Georgians educated (in person contacts)
- 1,286,946 telephone/email/media contacts

GROW

- 20,563 hours devoted to continuing education to better prepare for volunteer service
- 1,470 advanced training hours



In perspective: an average of 78.6 hours of service per active volunteer, or about 1.5 hours per volunteer per week, like adding 77 full-time staff to the Extension team

PROGRAM IMPACT

Extension Agents enlist the help of Master Gardener Volunteers to assist with meeting the demand for garden-related information requests that Extension offices receive. MGEVs also represent Extension through workshops, demonstration gardens, and with informative displays at numerous fairs and public events. The Georgia Master Gardener Program, continuously active for over 40 years under the direction of Extension in more than 60 counties across the state, trains volunteers to assist agents in Extension educational program delivery. As a result, Georgians are able to make environmentally sound gardening decisions. MGEVs ultimately help Extension achieve its mission of helping Georgians become healthier, more productive, financially independent and environmentally responsible.

Self-reported data from January 1 - December 31, 2023 collected from MGLOG, the recordkeeping system for the Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program, as of March 22, 2024.*The wage rate of \$31.80 per hour was used. The value of volunteer time is based on the average hourly earnings of all production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls (as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics) increased by 12 percent to estimate for fringe benefits. The information was supplied by the Independent Sector (1602 L Street, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036; 202-467-6100; <http://www.independentsector.org>), a national forum to encourage giving.