

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

IMPACTING YOUTH, LIFE QUALITY, HEALTH, AND COMMUNITIES



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION
Master Gardener Program

2,001
active GA MGEVs

157,487
volunteer
service hours

\$5,274,239
given back to
GA communities

GROWING A BETTER GEORGIA FROM THE GROUND UP LEARN

- 23 counties recruited and trained 251 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
- 200,565 Georgians educated (in person contacts)
- 1,063,114 telephone/email/media contacts

GROW

- 22,733 hours devoted to continuing education to better prepare for volunteer service
- 750 advanced training hours



In perspective: an average of 78.7 hours of service per active volunteer, or about 1.5 hours per volunteer per week, like adding 76 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, 2024, collected from MGLOG, the recordkeeping system for the Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program, as of April 14, 2025.*The wage rate of \$33.49 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.

report provided by: Georgia MGEV State Program Office | gamastergardener.org | masterg@uga.edu