

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

IMPACTING YOUTH, LIFE QUALITY, HEALTH, AND COMMUNITIES

PROGRAM IMPACT



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION



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 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.

AT A GLANCE



2,270

active GA MGEVs



111,065

volunteer
service hours



\$3,020,968

given back to
GA communities

Even amidst the 2020 worldwide pandemic, MGEVs continued to support consumer horticulture programming to the extent that they could. Many traditional volunteer roles were not possible, but when they could, MGEVs offered socially distant services, such as virtual workshops, seminars, and diagnostics.

GROWING A BETTER GEORGIA FROM THE GROUND UP

- 22 counties recruited and trained 253 new volunteers
- 7,189 hours devoted to continuing education to better prepare for volunteer service
- 125,321 Georgians educated (in person contacts)
- 1,270,637 telephone/email/media contacts
- In perspective:
 - an average of 56 hours of service per active volunteer, or a little more than 1 hour per volunteer per week, like adding 55.5 full-time staff to the Extension team
- Extended education focused on 5 Program Priorities:
 - Environmental Stewardship, Gardening with Youth, Home Food Production, Health Benefits of Gardening, and Value of Landscapes

Self-reported data collected from MGLOG, the recordkeeping system for the Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program, as of March 23, 2021.*The wage rate of \$27.20 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.