

# ANNUAL SUMMARY



Throughout 2023, Wisconsin Extension Master Gardeners contributed over **103,900 hours of service**, showcasing their unwavering dedication to the Wisconsin Idea. Additionally, we are proud to report that over **28,800 hours of continuing education** were recorded, highlighting Wisconsin Extension Master Gardeners' commitment to staying up-to-date on research-based information.

A big part of the Master Gardener Program is to **educate the people of Wisconsin** in environmentally sound gardening practices. This is done through:



Staffing information booths at events such as farmers' markets **4,500** hours



Answering the public's gardening questions **3,600** hours



Direct teaching **5,900** hours

## Together we can improve lives and communities through gardening.

The **Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program** supports a network of individuals dedicated to horticulture education, service, and lifelong learning. Through university research-based horticulture training they are equipped to address needs and opportunities in their community and throughout the state. Master Gardeners are motivated individuals who use gardening to make a difference in their communities. The Master Gardener Program provides plant-related continuing education opportunities to grow their gardening know-how. Local organizations benefit from the garden-related volunteer activities and education provided by Master Gardeners.

### IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN...

Volunteer hours

**103,900**

Continuing education hours

**28,800**

Total Master Gardener participants

**3,223**

Outreach hours related to pollinators

**6,700**

Total organizations served by Master Gardeners

**819**

Hours spent gardening native plants, pollinator habitats, managing invasive species, & more

**55,000**

### THE WISCONSIN IDEA

One of the longest and deepest traditions surrounding the University of Wisconsin, the **Wisconsin Idea** signifies a general principle: that **education should influence people's lives beyond the boundaries of the campus.**

Synonymous with Wisconsin for more than a century, this "Idea" has become the guiding philosophy of university outreach efforts in Wisconsin and throughout the world.

**Over the past year, Master Gardeners have been hard at work** providing a variety of gardening-related outreach activities to our Wisconsin communities through volunteer service to Wisconsin nonprofits and other organizations that benefit the public good. From answering individual gardening questions to educating large groups through workshops and displays, Master Gardeners have been dedicated to helping individuals grow their knowledge and skills. In addition, they have engaged in physical gardening tasks and provided expert administration and support to ensure the success of programs across the state. The Extension Horticulture and Master Gardener Programs are proud of the progress made and look forward to continuing to serve our communities in the coming year.

