

Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program Annual Summary 2025

Together we can improve lives and communities through gardening.

Program Overview

The Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program supports a network of individuals dedicated to horticulture education, service, and lifelong learning. By providing university research-based horticulture training, plant-related continuing education opportunities and facilitating local connections, the Master Gardener Program equips participants to address needs and opportunities throughout the state. Communities and organizations benefit from the garden-related volunteer activities and education provided by Master Gardeners.

Throughout 2025, Wisconsin Extension Master Gardeners contributed over 104,900 hours of volunteer service, showcasing their unwavering dedication to the Wisconsin Idea. Additionally, we are proud to report that over 27,100 hours of continuing education were recorded, highlighting Wisconsin Extension Master Gardeners' commitment to staying up-to-date on research-based information.

In the State of Wisconsin... (Statewide Metrics)

- Master Gardeners: 2,668
- Volunteer service hours: 104,900
- Organizations served by Master Gardeners: 894
- Hours spent educating others: 20,200
- Hours spent on continuing education: 27,100
- Hours spent gardening in service to communities: 56,600

2025 Education Highlights

A vital part of the Master Gardener Program is to educate the people of Wisconsin to grow healthy plants for food, community beauty, and personal well-being, all while utilizing sustainable, environmentally sound gardening practices.

2025 education highlights include:

- Staffing information booths at events such as farmers' markets: 4,190 hours
- Answering the public's gardening questions: 3,035 hours
- Education Support & Direct teaching: 10,590 hours

Program Impact Statement

Master Gardeners educate the people of Wisconsin on gardening best practices to help them grow plants successfully while protecting the environment. They extend the reach of the University 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 are dedicated to helping individuals grow

their knowledge and skills. In addition, they engage in physical gardening tasks and provide expert administration and support to ensure the success of programs across the state.

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.

Institutional Information

Master Gardener Program

DIVISION OF EXTENSION

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.