



NC STATE EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERSM IMPACTS 2025

STATEWIDE OVERVIEW



4,103
Master Gardener
volunteers & interns



80
Counties with local
EMG programs



244,248
Volunteer hours
contributed



538
New volunteers
recruited & trained



355,510
NC residents
reached



\$8.5 million
Value of volunteer
time at \$34.79/hr

LOCAL PROJECTS + ACTIVITIES

Demonstration Gardens

- 57,000 hours volunteered across NC
- 10,880 community members engaged via signage and garden-based education

Community Gardens

- 17,000 hours volunteered across NC
- 8,300 community members engaged

Garden Infolines + Plant Clinics

- 30,000 hours volunteered across NC
- 71,600 community members engaged

Public Classes + Educational Outreach

- 70,900 hours volunteered across NC
- 152,100 community members engaged



Photo by Allie Mullin, Master Gardener volunteer

Youth Outreach + School Gardens

- 9,900 hours volunteered across NC
- 40,000 youth engaged

Supporting Health + Wellbeing

(Therapeutic Hort, Seed Libraries, Community Partnerships)

- 20,000 hours volunteered across NC
- 40,300 community members engaged

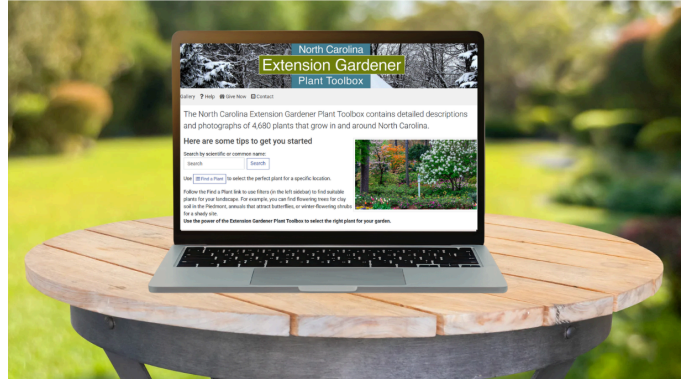
STATEWIDE PROJECTS + ACTIVITIES

Protecting Pollinators When It Counts



- 230+ volunteers dedicated 335 hours to data collection
- 5,086 North Carolinians contributed data
- 92 NC counties participated, up from 78 in 2024
- 160+ new pollinator gardens were created

Volunteers Help the Plant Toolbox Bloom



- Free online resource with research-based information on 4,600+ plants that grow in and around NC
- 25 EMG volunteers contributed 1,250+ hours to expand and enhance the Plant Toolbox

From Input to Impact

In 2025, the NC State Extension Master Gardener program engaged volunteers and Extension professionals in a statewide survey to guide future priorities.

Their input is shaping strategic investments and has helped refine the program's mission to better reflect its impact: empowering North Carolinians to cultivate healthy plants, ecosystems, and communities through volunteer service that delivers research-based information, education and outreach.

Top Community Needs

We can address with horticulture education:

- Pollinator health and conservation
- Biodiversity and ecosystem health
- Sustainable gardening and IPM
- Climate-resilient gardening

In response, the program is investing in advanced training and new tools, including a statewide speakers bureau, to strengthen volunteer skills and expand community impact.

Honoring Excellence in Gardening Education



Photo by Allie Mullin, Master Gardener volunteer

- Durham County volunteers received an International Master Gardener Search for Excellence award for their exceptional service in gardening education

GROWING A LEGACY: THE EMG ENDOWMENT

2025 Contributions and Sources

- \$8,205 in direct donations
- \$3,260 in License Plate sales
- \$11,465 contributed in 2025



\$170,600

Market Value
As of 3/01/26



[go.ncsu.edu/
NCEMG-endowment](https://go.ncsu.edu/NCEMG-endowment)



To learn more about these and other Extension Master Gardener projects:

go.ncsu.edu/NC-EMG-impacts

NC STATE

Extension Master Gardener

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