MSU Extension Master Gardener Program  
~ 2016 Summary ~

Total Participants in the MSU Extension Master Gardener Program:  **3,911**

**Number of Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs):**  **3,265**

Counties with MSU Extension Master Gardeners:  **75**

**Number of new volunteers trained:**  **646**

Counties with new trainees:  **46**

Training courses provided:  **15**  (Locations: Ann Arbor, Cadillac, Clinton Township – 2, Escanaba, Flint, Grand Rapids, Harper Woods, Houghton, Jackson, Portage, Mason, Novi, Swartz Creek, Waterford)

Number of reported personal contacts by EMGs educating other:  **397,410**

Volunteer hours:  **170,380 hours**

Economic Value¹:  **$4.01 M**

Focus areas for volunteer projects:
- Environmental stewardship
  - Examples: protecting and preserving water quality, invasive species education, environmentally friendly pest management, native plants
- Improving food security
  - Examples: community gardens, teaching citizens how to grow their own food for better nutrition and health; giving gardens - 240,531 lbs. of produce donated to food banks, food pantries, food shelters
- Improving community
  - Examples: beautification, horticulture therapy
- Youth development through gardening
  - Examples: Junior Master Gardener, school gardens, after-school programs
- Supporting MSU Extension
  - Examples: Smart Gardening Outreach Booths, Ask an Expert, State Lawn and Garden Hotline, assisting with classes

Continuing education hours:  **39,485 hours**

Additional contributions: (in-kind contributions)
- Miles driven in support of EMG project efforts: 880,735
- Economic value²:  **$123,303**

**ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF THE MSU EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM TO THE STATE OF MICHIGAN:**  **$4.14 M**

¹ Independent Sector Value of a Volunteer Hour (2015 National Rate): $23.56
² Federal charitable mileage rate: $.14 / mile