



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 - **240,531lbs. 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