

Texas Master Gardeners have a reputation of delivering quality horticulture information that meets the needs and expectations of the citizens of Texas. The projects and educational programs not only impact the end user of the information, they also lighten the burden of the demand on Texas A&M AgriLife Extension employees. The Master Gardener program has a snowball effect. The more Extension pours into the education of volunteers, the more the volunteers learn and serve the public. In 2012, 1,136 volunteers were trained to become Master Gardeners. That brings the total Texas Master Gardener population to 6,190. The quality of service the Master Gardeners provide is continually increasing as has the total hours served. In 2012, Master Gardeners provided the people of Texas and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service 490,601 volunteer hours. This is equivalent to 245 full time employees and an economic impact of 9.8 million dollars.

In 2012, Texas Master Gardeners answered 25,055 phone calls coming into the county office. Questions range from plant identification, care, and maintenance to disease and pest identification and treatment, to fruit and vegetable plantings, to landscape, lawn care and cultivation. Master Gardeners also give presentations on the same topics as many of the questions. In 2012, volunteers delivered 2,181 presentations to 183,613 attendees. Texas Master Gardeners impact youth by utilizing the Junior Master Gardener curriculum. As a result of these efforts, there are 942 youth gardens throughout the state of Texas that are directly impacted by Master Gardeners. There are 268 Texas Master Gardener demonstration gardens that showcase plant material that is best suited to the local area. And if one of these above mention methods has not provided an opportunity to educate the public, there is also 52 Master Gardener websites where the public can learn of local gardening practices 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Texas Master Gardeners are highly trained and capable of delivering educational programs to the public on behalf of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. They provide numerous opportunities for the public to learn gardening, entomology, plant pathology, lawn care, landscape design and environmentally responsible techniques.