

Texas Master Gardener

2015 Annual Report



The Texas Master Gardener Program is a volunteer development program offered By Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The volunteers are highly trained and provide research based educational program to the citizens of Texas. In 2015, the Texas Master Gardener program grew to over 7000 volunteers. This is the largest corps of Master Gardener volunteers in the Nation. These volunteers assisted the local Extension office by answering 23,226 phone calls. They presented 2,353 presentations that reached an audience of 95,437. Master Gardeners demonstrate appropriate plant selection and Earth-Kind practices in over 302 gardens throughout the state. They reach youth through 485 gardens that focus on learning opportunities for children and Master Gardeners further their efforts by offering gardening information on 62 individual county websites.

In 2015, Texas trained 1,174 new volunteers. New and tenured volunteers provided the greatest number of educational hours in the history of the program this year. They provided 637,537 hours of educational service. These hours equate to 300 full time employees and an economic impact of \$12 million dollars.

In addition to the education and service requirement Master Gardeners receive to become a certified Texas Master Gardener, some choose to do more. The Master Gardener Specialist program is advanced training, in which the volunteer gains and additional 16 hours of education and provides 20 hours of service in a specific horticulture area. In 2015, 135 volunteers became certified in one of the following horticulture areas: Junior Master Gardener, Greenhouse Management, First Detector- plant pathology, Irrigation Efficiency, Entomology, Texas Superstar Plants, Rainwater Harvesting, Home Fruit Production, Compost, Plant Propagation, Vegetable, and Earth-Kind.

The heart of the Master Gardener program is our volunteers. They are dedicated and passionate about all things gardening and are willing to share their knowledge with anyone interested in learning.

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