



UConn Extension Master Gardeners Cultivating Knowledge, Growing Communities

UConn Extension’s Master Gardener program trains volunteers in horticulture, environmental stewardship, and plant science. These volunteers share their knowledge through community projects, classes, and one-on-one support—cultivating greener, healthier, and more connected communities across Connecticut.

This program plays a critical role in promoting environmental stewardship, enhancing public green spaces, and supporting local food production. Master Gardeners contribute thousands of volunteer hours annually, offering educational workshops, staffing help desks, and assisting with projects that improve the quality of life in Connecticut communities.



Investing in the Master Gardener program means strengthening our state’s commitment to sustainable landscapes, food security, and climate resilience. With support, we can expand outreach efforts, increase accessibility, and continue to provide science-based gardening solutions that benefit residents and the environment alike.

BY THE NUMBERS



772

certified Master Gardeners



1,368

Garden Master Class participants



127k

community contacts



35

Garden Master Classes offered

“

The Master Gardener program has been an incredible opportunity to explore an area of interest in depth with people who have so much knowledge, patience and passion for the topics covered.”



“

The Master Gardener class has opened opportunities and friendships and taught me that it is never too late to learn something new. I will continue to volunteer at both gardens and look for new ways to make a difference in caring for the environment.”

“

The Master Gardener program brings together communities. A diverse group of passionate, knowledgeable and dedicated individuals with shared beliefs in the natural world can bridge gaps throughout society.”



VOLUNTEER



Volunteers contribute their expertise by staffing help desks, offering workshops, leading garden projects, and mentoring others. The program fosters environmental literacy, strengthens local food systems, and supports climate-resilient landscapes. Their efforts improved community gardens, increased access to gardening education, and fostered connections that enhance both individual and environmental well-being. These efforts helped create a 68% increase in the number of participants who adopted self-reliant food system practices.

12.8k

volunteer hours in
Extension offices

\$1.47M

value of volunteer time

43.4k

total volunteer hours

31k

community volunteer hours

For more information, visit us at:
mastergardener.uconn.edu

(9-2025) Data is based on 2024 program information. The University of Connecticut complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action, including the provision of reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Extension program participants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations to address limitations resulting from a disability. For more information, please contact the UConn Extension Civil Rights Liaison at extensioncivilrights@uconn.edu.