

NC STATE

Extension Master Gardener

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Image by Christine Stecker

Across North Carolina, volunteers with the NC State Extension Master GardenerSM program strengthen Extension's delivery of science-based education to North Carolinians.

2021 SNAPSHOT



3808
Volunteers



158,634
Volunteer hours



\$4.1 million
Value of volunteer time



77,371
NC residents reached



Learn. Grow. Share.

Master GardenerSM volunteers share their knowledge to help North Carolinians learn and grow. Their efforts connect people with the benefits of gardening, empowering them to cultivate healthy plants, landscapes, ecosystems, and communities.

Here are highlights of their work from 2021.

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH PLANTS

Brunswick County - Master Gardener volunteers hosted an open house at the [Brunswick County Botanical Garden](#) to address new residents' questions and provide solutions for coastal gardening challenges.

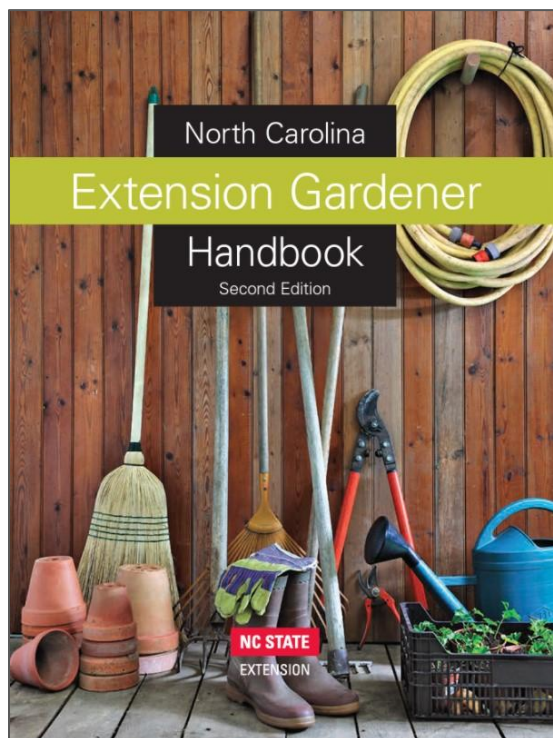
Johnston County - Written by Master Gardener volunteers, "The Gardener's Dirt" monthly newsletter addresses common plant questions and alerts gardeners to [Be On the Look Out \(BOLO\)](#) for seasonal pest and plant disease issues.

Vance & Warren Counties - An expansion to the [demonstration garden](#) at the county Extension center allows Master Gardener volunteers to teach gardening best practices in an easily accessible setting.



[Read more](#) about these efforts.

SHARING A PASSION FOR PLANTS



[Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox](#) - Master Gardener volunteers contributed over 2,100 hours to enhance and expand the Plant Toolbox, which features more than 4,500 plant profiles.

[Extension Gardener Handbook, 2nd Ed](#) & [Teacher's Guide](#) - With help from Master Gardener volunteers, these two great resources are now available to gardeners and horticultural educators nationwide.

[Extension Gardener Online Courses](#) - Development and launch of these courses was supported by Master Gardener volunteers, who helped edit and evaluate course materials and served as online teaching assistants.

[Plant These Instead](#) - Master Gardener volunteers helped make this series more accessible by editing the recording subtitles.

[Read more](#) about these resources.

PROMOTING POLLINATORS AND NATIVE PLANTS

Caldwell County - Through the “Nature’s Best Hope Garden Challenge,” Master Gardener volunteers encouraged each other and their neighbors to increase the number of native plants in their yards.

Henderson County - At a daycare center serving low-income families, Master Gardener volunteers installed plantings to enhance the playground.

Montgomery County - Master Gardener volunteers renovated a large pollinator garden and added signage that identifies each plant in the garden.

Moore County - In partnership with the Southern Pines Public Library, Master Gardener volunteers designed and installed the “[Books and Bees Garden](#)” that provides habitat for native bees and beneficial insects.

Sampson County - [Pollinator habitat gardens](#) created by Master Gardener volunteers demonstrate how homeowners, municipalities, businesses, and farmers can support pollinators on their property.



[Read more](#) about these projects.

FINDING THE BEST BASIL



Master Gardener volunteers in **Chatham**, **Haywood**, **Onslow**, and **Pender** Counties participated in a research project to evaluate which basil cultivars are most resistant to basil downy mildew, a plant disease that is often deadly to basil plants.

Working with their Extension agent, volunteers set up test plots either in their backyard or at the local Extension center and collected data each week through the summer and fall. Their observations not only included which cultivars were most affected by basil downy mildew, but which cultivars tasted the best.

This trial will continue in the summer of 2022. Final results will be shared in Extension publications and variety recommendations will be added to the basil profile in the Plant Toolbox.

[Read more](#) about this research.

CONGRATULATIONS, INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNERS!

Two NC State Extension Master Gardener volunteer projects were among seven selected as first place winners in the International Master Gardener Search for Excellence!

Durham County - Volunteers were awarded first place in the research category for their tomato grafting project. [Learn more!](#)

Orange County - The stormwater demonstration garden they created at the Orange County Courthouse earned volunteers first place in the demonstration garden category. [Learn more!](#)

The [International Master Gardener Search for Excellence](#) is the recognition program for outstanding Master Gardener volunteer work across the United States, Canada, and South Korea.



JOIN US!

Learn about [becoming a Master Gardener volunteer](#) in your community. Contact your [local N.C. Cooperative Extension center](#) to find out when the training course will be offered and how to apply.

GARDENING QUESTIONS?

Visit our [Garden Help Directory](#) to find Master Gardener volunteers in your community that you may contact for gardening advice.

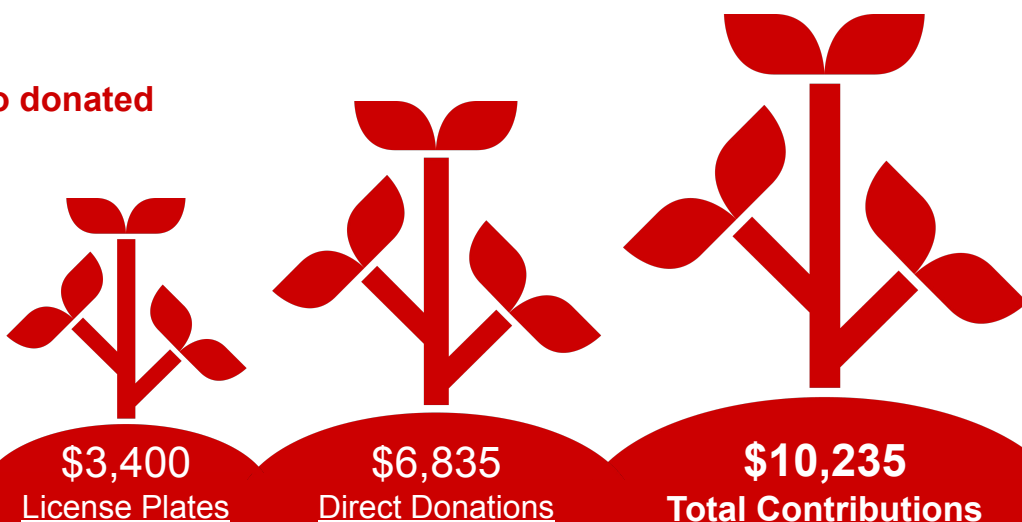
DONATE!

Support the NC State Extension Master Gardener program by making a tax-deductible donation to the [NC Extension Master Gardener endowment](#). Interest income generated by your gift will help further the work of Master Gardener volunteers across North Carolina both now and for years to come!

Sincere thanks to everyone who donated in 2021!



2021 Contributions & Sources



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