

***Conserving our Natural Resources...***



***...Growing the Garden State...***



***...and Horticulture  
for the Health of It!***



# Statewide Rutgers Master Gardener Program Summary

# RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station

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## The Value of Volunteering

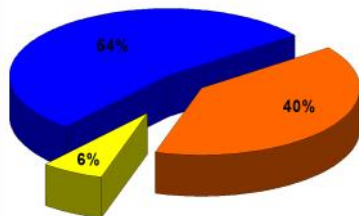
Independent Sector is the leadership network for nonprofits, foundations, and corporations committed to advancing the common good. This estimate helps acknowledge the millions of individuals who dedicate their time, talents, and energy to making a difference.

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, about 63 million Americans gave 8 billion hours of volunteer service worth \$193 billion.

The Independent Sector has calculated a national average of \$23.56 per-hour value for volunteerism, while here in New Jersey that value for 2016 is \$27.46 per hour, a 2.8% increase from 2015. More details may be found at [www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org).

## Annual hourly investment for Rutgers Master Gardener volunteers includes:

- 54% volunteering
- 40% training
- 6% continuing education



## THE RUTGERS NJAES MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension faculty and staff provide expert and in-depth training in all aspects of gardening and horticulture to prospective Master Gardener volunteers. Topics include plant biology, propagation, soil science, and plant and pest diagnostics, to name a few. Master Gardeners provide volunteer hours to assist NJ residents in answering their home horticulture questions and provide community service through educational projects.

## Statewide Summary for 2016

**281** Newly Trained Rutgers Master Gardeners

**2,368** Active Rutgers Master Gardeners

**8,893** New Jersey residents trained since 1984

**167,209** Volunteer Hours

**\$ 4,591,559**

2016 Volunteer Value

## Statewide Highlights

- **27,978** Garden Helpline clients
- **133,057** pounds of produce grown, harvested and donated
- **828** educational seminars, workshops, and presentations attended by **21,543 adults** and **12,152 youth**

**1984 - 2016**

## Rutgers Master Gardener Program Summary

**2,716,267**

Cumulative Volunteer Hours

**\$ 54,247,631**

Cumulative Value

32 Years of Rutgers Master Gardener  
Volunteer Efforts



## Statewide Outreach Efforts 2016



*New Jersey Flower and Garden Show*

### **2016 NJ State Master Gardener Conference**

#### *“Through the Garden Gate”*

#### **The Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey**

This association is a statewide advisory board that assists Rutgers Cooperative Extension in expanding its educational and outreach mission. The RMGANJ is comprised of representatives from current RMG county programs, and assists with existing outreach programs and expanding activities to new audiences.

#### **2016 RMGANJ Leadership**

President: Terry Zane, Burlington County

Vice President: Kathy Dopart, Middlesex County

Treasurer: Patricia Schanzlin, Sussex County

Recording Secretary: Jane Gardner, Sussex County

Corresponding Secretary: Joe Cooper, Bergen County

#### *Rutgers Master Gardener's Annual State Conference*



*Snyder Farm Open House and Great Tomato Tasting*

## Atlantic County

Program founded in 2004

[www.rutgers-atlantic.org/garden](http://www.rutgers-atlantic.org/garden)

Master Gardeners trained in 2016:	19
Master Gardeners currently active:	107
Master Gardeners trained to date:	306
Total Volunteer hours in 2016:	6,233
Consultation & Diagnostics:	1,392
Community Outreach:	3,198
Community Education:	424
2016 Volunteer value:	\$ 171,158
Total Volunteer hours to date:	51,883
Total Volunteer value to date:	\$ 1,312,823

### Outreach Highlights:

- 3,750 website hits
- 275 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 35 programs for 1,008 adults, 67 youth

### Award-Winning Gardens of Distinction



The Alzheimer Sensory Trail and Edible Gardens at the Seashore Gardens Living Center (SGLC) in Galloway received a Garden of Distinction Award by the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society and was also recognized as “Innovative Program of the Year” by LeadingAge New Jersey, the statewide association of not-for-profit senior care organizations. The garden features multiple raised bed gardens with fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers and plants indigenous to the Jersey shore. The raised beds were designed to accommodate wheelchair bound residents. There also are garden sculptures and art, as well as places to sit and reflect. In addition to enjoying the fresh-grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs, residents share in the watering and care of the plants. These activities provide an important physical and emotional link for SGLC Comfort Care residents, while also giving them an opportunity to interact with staff and each other against a background that changes with the seasons.

## Bergen County

Program founded in 1984

<http://mgofbc.org>

Master Gardeners trained in 2016:	20
Master Gardeners currently active:	189
Master Gardeners trained to date:	911
Total Volunteer hours in 2016:	8,831
Consultation and Diagnostics:	773
Community Outreach:	901
Community Education:	-
2016 Volunteer value	\$ 242,499
Total Volunteer hours to date:	196,141
Total Volunteer value to date:	\$ 3,144,474

### Outreach Highlights:

- 22,258 website hits
- 3,312 YouTube Video views
- 3,290 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 480 lbs. of produce grown and donated
- 5 educational programs for 113 adults

### Horticultural Therapy Programs

With a team of volunteers Agent Flagler has created four new programs in Bergen County - the successes from which are not measured in pounds of produce grown, but rather by the number of individual lives improved as a direct result of the horticultural intervention. Focus is kept on the individual as plants are used as tools to achieve certain goals. New programs address the needs of elders in Englewood and Ridgewood, increasing social gratification and creating opportunities for creativity and self-expression. That's easy when you have live plants and millions of nature craft activities to choose from.

For developmentally disabled middle school students in Garfield, the goals are focused on job readiness and vocational awareness. Programs in 2016 for post-stroke seniors have met with great response from the participants and the hosting agency, the Bergen County Division on Disabilities within the Health Department. Clients express that there is nothing like working with living plants and creating wonderful horticultural gifts to give to others.

Everyone can be successful with plants on some level, and those successes often lead to other successes in their lives. This program is now offered at five of the county's locations.

If horticulture is ‘people growing plants’, then Horticultural Therapy is ‘plants growing people.’



## Camden County

Program founded in 1996

<http://www.camdencounty.com/parks>

Master Gardeners trained in 2016:	12
Master Gardeners currently active:	86
Master Gardeners trained to date:	484
Total Volunteer hours in 2016:	4,073
Consultation & Diagnostics:	2,489
Community Outreach:	1,583
Community Education:	-
2016 Volunteer value:	\$ 111,885
Total Volunteer hours to date:	82,381
Total Volunteer value to date:	\$1,834,575

### Outreach Highlights:

- 1,109 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 5 educational programs for 50 adults
- 1 Facebook Page with 10 educational posts

### ‘New’ Demonstration Garden

Through support from the Camden County Board of Freeholders and Camden County Office of Sustainability partnering with the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Camden County, the first hydroponics system to provide nutritious, delicious produce to local partners including Camden County College and local food banks was launched in 2016. Hydroponics is a soilless approach to gardening that has been utilized for thousands of years. Hydroponic gardening tends to produce larger plants and higher yields due to the nutrient rich solution delivered directly to the plant root system. This makes for easier access to nutrients compared to traditional soil gardening in which the plants need to search for nutrients. Furthermore, the reuse of the nutrient solution utilizes less water than conventional gardening. Ultimately, the project’s mission is to create a place to produce locally-grown fruits and vegetables in an environment where food safety, nutrition, and water conservation are our key principles to combating food deserts in low income urban areas, and where people of all walks of life and all levels of ability can actively participate in a Sustainable Camden with Rutgers Master Gardener of Camden County collaboration to improve the community’s wellbeing. The team recently completed the construction phase and now on to the seeding and transplanting phase. They are currently growing a variety of micro green and lettuces using a form of hydroponics system referred to as ebb and flow and are in the process of adding a different type of system (Dutch-bucket) to grow select tomatoes and cucumbers.

## Cape May County

Program founded in 2003

<http://www.capemaycountygov.net>

Master Gardeners trained in 2016:	0
Master Gardeners currently active:	21
Master Gardeners trained to date:	142
Total Volunteer hours in 2016:	1,061
Consultation & Diagnostics:	126
Community Outreach:	715
Community Education:	184
2016 Volunteer value:	\$ 29,135
Total Volunteer hours to date:	19,156
Total Volunteer value to date:	\$417,534

### Outreach Highlights:

- 221 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 160 lbs. of produce grown and donated
- 40 educational programs for 359 adults, 202 youth
- 29 presentations created

### Planting the “People’s Garden”

Rutgers Master Gardeners are making a difference in Cape May County by growing fresh vegetables available for those in need. RMGs planted over 1,600 plants in June at the “People’s Garden” located on the grounds of the USDA Plant Material Center, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Three local food pantries are benefiting from the “People’s Garden.” There is minimal cost to operate the “People’s Garden,” since the seed planted came from last year’s plants and all of the planting and follow-up work is done by volunteers. Volunteers planted 200 plants, yielding 160 pounds of vegetables donated to food pantries. The vegetables planted included: tomatoes, parsley, zucchini, bush beans, and peppers. The non-profit organizations that receive the vegetables help with weeding and harvesting their own vegetables at the farm, which are weighed as they leave.



## Cumberland County

Program founded in 2006

<http://www.co.cumberland.nj.us/>

Master Gardeners trained in 2016:	5
Master Gardeners currently active:	55
Master Gardeners trained to date:	147
Total Volunteer hours in 2016:	3,869
Consultation & Diagnostics:	602
Community Outreach:	2,368
Community Education:	669
2016 Volunteer value:	\$106,243
Total Volunteer hours to date:	38,002
Total Volunteer value to date:	\$932,226

### Outreach Highlights:

- 5,273 lbs. of produce harvested and donated
- 1,006 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 208 Radio & TV spots, Channel 22 and 1240 SNJ
- 62 press releases and 5 feature articles
- 28 programs for 1,951 adults and 685 youth

### Rediscovering the Rutgers 250 Tomato

Tom Orton, Extension Specialist, Rutgers Cooperative Extension partnered with the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Cumberland County to harvest fruits of the tomato variety *Rutgers 250* and extract seeds for distribution to home gardeners in 2017. Tom stated, "On behalf of everyone involved in the 'Rediscovering the Jersey Tomato' project at Rutgers University, please accept my sincere gratitude for all the hard work by Master Gardeners of Cumberland County on the *Rutgers 250* seed production effort. As a consequence of these efforts, including the tedious extraction from tomato fruits and cleaning of dried seeds, we were able to reach our goal of over 3.4 lbs. of seeds to be distributed to home gardeners nationwide in 2017. Master Gardeners were both diligent and enthusiastic in taking this on. Without the Master Gardeners of Cumberland County, the 2017 offering of *Rutgers 250* and other tomato products would not have been possible."



## Essex County

Program founded in 1986

<http://essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/>

Master Gardeners trained in 2016:	26
Master Gardeners currently active:	137
Master Gardeners trained to date:	824
Total volunteer hours in 2016:	11,299
Consultation & Diagnostics:	1,669
Community Outreach:	7,651
Community Education:	-
2016 Volunteer value:	\$ 310,271
Total Volunteer hours to date:	198,866
Total Volunteer value to date:	\$ 3,475,800

### Outreach Highlights:

- 7,401 website hits
- 1,038 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 750 lbs. produce grown and donated
- 29 educational programs for 739 adults, 171 youth
- 10 Presentations created
- 1 Facebook page

### Keeping up with the Bees

The Beekeepers Committee was formed in 2016 and is responsible for the care and feeding of the bees currently living in the hives behind Garibaldi Hall in the Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland. Under the mentorship of Mr. Jan Zientek, RCE Senior Program Coordinator, the beekeepers have various degrees of beekeeping experience and education and learn from each other. Some members have taken or are planning to take beekeeping classes. All that is required of the Master Gardeners to participate in this activity is proper bee protective clothing. In August of 2016, the committee participated in the Essex County Environmental Center's Buzz Fest. They educated children and adults about the life of bees and the manufacturing of their honey. This year the committee extracted 30 pounds of honey which was available for sale at the event.





Program founded in 1992

<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/mg.htm>

Master Gardeners trained in 2016:	12
Master Gardeners currently active:	101
Master Gardeners trained to date:	406
Total Volunteer hours in 2016:	13,207
Consultation & Diagnostics:	1,698
Community Outreach:	8,670
Community Education:	976
2016 Volunteer value:	\$ 362,664
Total Volunteer hours to date:	245,402
Total Volunteer value to date:	\$ 5,173,275

### Outreach Highlights:

- 16,670 lbs. fresh produce harvested and donated
- 6,577 website hits
- 545 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 160 programs for 4,229 adults and 1,384 youth
- 34 Presentations created, 4 news releases

### Garden Accessibility

As part of the Rotary and Rutgers Enabling Garden Initiative, wheelchair accessible beds were installed and garden therapy programs designed and delivered to multiple assisted living facilities and facilities for developmental disabilities. Community groups that benefitted from accessible programming included the Hunterdon Developmental Center, Hunterdon ARC, Independence Manor Assisted Living, Hunterdon Care Center Assisted Living, The Country Arch Assisted Living, and the Open Arms Adult Care Center.

Audience members were offered an array of horticultural activities that were customized to meet the specific needs of diverse populations. 84 individuals with disabilities accessed any one of 12 programs designed with the Sensory Garden. Stakeholders offer continued praise for programming, and request future programming in 2017. Audience members have sent 'Thank You' cards for rewarding experiences to Rutgers Master Gardener volunteers. All the Rutgers Master Gardeners actively volunteering in this programming deeply enjoy providing these horticultural experiences to so many individuals that otherwise would not have access. In addition to the Sensory Gardens, demonstration gardens were installed, labeled, and maintained for the general public using the Rutgers Cooperative Extension facility and grounds, and a Homeschool Network had season-long access to a vegetable garden and Rutgers Master Gardener guidance.





# RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

NJAES Master Gardeners

## Master Gardeners - What They Do

New Jersey Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who assist Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) Cooperative Extension in its mission to deliver horticulture programs and information to the general public.

Master Gardeners are engaged in their local communities and use their skills in a variety of areas including:

- **Answering questions through the Garden Helpline and plant clinics**
- **Gardening demonstrations, newspaper articles, and speaking engagements**
- **Providing horticultural outreach programs**
- **Assisting in research projects with Rutgers NJAES faculty and staff**
- **Harvesting and packing produce for community food banks**
- **Offering school and community gardening projects**

Anyone with an interest in gardening and a commitment to volunteer service can become a Rutgers NJAES Master Gardener.

Visit us at [njaes.rutgers.edu/mastergardeners](http://njaes.rutgers.edu/mastergardeners).



Program founded in 1993

<http://www.mgofmc.org>

Master Gardeners trained in 2016:	22
Master Gardeners currently active:	227
Master Gardeners trained to date:	725
Total Volunteer hours in 2016:	17,576
Consultation & Diagnostics:	4,658
Community Outreach:	1,308
Community Education:	405
2016 Volunteer value:	\$ 482,637
Total Volunteer hours to date:	320,262
Total Volunteer value to date:	\$ 6,870,080

### Outreach Highlights:

- 890,534 website hits
- 5,719 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 1,780 lbs. produce donated
- 22 educational programs, 610 adults, 966 youth
- 28 articles written
- 23 PowerPoint presentations created

### Growing School Gardens

The Children's Program Committee members continued in 2016 to work in school gardens throughout Mercer County. Princeton, Hopewell, West Windsor and Pennington each have at least one school with thriving edible gardens. A partnership with Isles, Inc., a 35-year old, Trenton-based nonprofit that fosters self-reliant families and healthy, sustainable communities, resulted in the creation of school garden programs at five schools in Trenton. Using four different children's gardening books, a garden lesson was presented during the winter months at six schools in Mercer County. In addition, Rutgers Master Gardeners continued programming at six other school gardens throughout Mercer County.





## Middlesex County

Program founded in 1988

<http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices>

Master Gardeners trained in 2016:	37
Master Gardeners currently active:	195
Master Gardeners trained to date:	522
Total Volunteer hours in 2016:	12,958
Consultation & Diagnostics:	1,376
Community Outreach:	923
Community Education:	360
2016 Volunteer value:	\$ 355,827
Total Volunteer hours to date:	155,297
Total Volunteer value to date:	\$ 2,782,616

### Outreach Highlights:

- 1,963 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 850 lbs. produce donated
- 91 educational programs attended by 1,571 adults and 1,000 youth
- 20 school garden projects
- 4 PowerPoint presentations

### Native Plant Garden

The Native Plant Garden was established in 2016 with some start-up funds for plants and materials to establish a demonstration site for plants adapted to our local conditions. It is an ongoing labor of love with plans that include trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, vines, and grasses. Within the design, there are areas of shade, part-shade, and full sun.

The main objective is to cultivate a low-impact, sustainable garden by planting low-maintenance species which serves as an environmental education opportunity for landscapers, homeowners and student groups alike. Hundreds of children and adults visited the site this year as part of school tours, educational workshops, and the Annual Open House event in August. The creation of the garden serves as inspiration and encouragement for individuals to plant native materials with year round interest while also providing habitat and food for wildlife, a healthy ecosystem, and biodiversity within the landscape.

Native plants are important for the preservation of the Lawrence Brook Watershed, of which the EARTH Center resides, as established native species tend to require less water than the more common landscape plants. They are essential in the proliferation of non-apis pollinators which assist in the pollination of many fruit and vegetable crops grown in New Jersey.

## NJAES Master Gardeners

# RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station

### Becoming a Master Gardener

The first Master Gardener program in New Jersey was established in 1984. Since then thousands of New Jersey residents have completed the Rutgers NJAES Master Gardener training program. These volunteers have given hundreds of thousands of hours in service to the residents of New Jersey.

Master Gardeners receive in-depth training in horticulture from NJAES Cooperative Extension faculty and staff. Successful graduates of the training program become Certified Master Gardeners after completion of the required volunteer service.

Master Gardeners participate in many statewide events:

- **NJ Flower and Garden Show**
- **Spring and Fall Conferences**
- **Rutgers Ag Field Day**
- **Rutgers Gardens Summer and Fall Festivals**
- **New Jersey Museum of Agriculture Landscape Auction**

For more information, please call your county Cooperative Extension office listed online at [www.njaes.rutgers.edu/county](http://www.njaes.rutgers.edu/county).

**Visit us at [njaes.rutgers.edu/mastergardeners](http://njaes.rutgers.edu/mastergardeners).**





# Monmouth County

Program founded in 1999

<http://www.visitmonmouth.com>

Master Gardeners trained in 2016:	30
Master Gardeners currently active:	247
Master Gardeners trained to date:	511
Total Volunteer hours in 2016:	24,990
Consultation & Diagnostics:	3,085
Community Outreach:	14,320
Community Education:	4,281
2016 Volunteer value:	\$ 686,225
Total Volunteer hours to date:	281,372
Total Volunteer value to date:	\$ 7,123,228

## Outreach Highlights:

- 17,000 lbs. of produce harvested and donated
- 2,774 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 118 programs for 2,600 adults and 3,422 youth
- 6 news releases

## Spring Symposium

Rutgers Master Gardener volunteers initiated the first Spring Garden Symposium that was held on April 16, 2016. The public attended this free day of garden talks, all given through the Master Gardener Speakers Bureau. Talks ran throughout the day on that Saturday, and included Container Gardening, Organic Vegetable Gardening, Your Spring Lawn, Perennials, Monarchs, and Raised Beds. Never holding such an event, this was a new offering for the program and for the volunteers, however it was a great success with more than 150 attendees for the day. In addition to talks, RMG's staffed a Garden Helpline table, general gardening information tables with more handouts and displays on the topics of the talks, and gave tours of the six gardens on the campus of the Agriculture Building. The Spring Garden Symposium was a valuable outreach effort by the RMG's, resulting in not only public education, but also in positive exposure of the Rutgers Master Gardener program.





## Morris County

Program founded in 2003

<http://morris.njaes.rutgers.edu/garden/>

Master Gardeners trained in 2016:	20
Master Gardeners currently active:	151
Master Gardeners trained to date:	318
Total Volunteer hours in 2016:	5,830
Consultation & Diagnostics:	1,486
Community Outreach:	2,623
Community Education:	354
2016 Volunteer value:	\$ 160,092
Total Volunteer hours to date:	52,040
Total Volunteer value to date:	\$ 1,247,049

### Outreach Highlights:

- 1,929 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 671 lbs. of produce harvested and donated
- 52 educational programs for 1,199 adults
- 4 PowerPoint presentations

### Yacon Project Report

In 2016, the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Morris County demonstrated yacon production to local farmers and gardeners. Yacon (*Smallanthus sonchifolius*) is a large perennial plant grown for its edible tuberous roots. While Yacon is primarily grown in South America, recent interest in the crop has developed in the United States.

The goal of the demonstration was to examine plant growth and yield and determine if there is a potential local market for yacon. Financing for the project was provided by a grant from the Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension's Phillip Alampi Fund. The fund is designed to help explore new crops and production techniques for local farmers.

The Rutgers Master Gardeners grew six varieties of yacon in demonstration plots at two community gardens, measured growth and yield and developed educational signage and handouts. After the harvest, a tasting of the yacon tubers was held at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum.

Rutgers Master Gardeners and community gardeners attended and were very enthusiastic about the unique flavors of tubers. A majority of the attendees noted that they would seek out the tubers from local growers in New Jersey. Yacon rhizomes from the demonstration plots were stored for use in further research projects in 2017.

## Ocean County

Program founded in 1990

<http://ocean.njaes.rutgers.edu/garden/>

Master Gardeners trained in 2016:	27
Master Gardeners currently active:	162
Master Gardeners trained to date:	911
Total Volunteer hours in 2016:	20,290
Consultation & Diagnostics:	4,037
Community Outreach:	777
Community Education:	120
2016 Volunteer value:	\$ 557,163
Total Volunteer hours to date:	292,212
Total Volunteer value to date:	\$ 5,673,523

### Outreach Highlights:

- 16,569 lbs. of produce harvested and donated
- 5,097 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 2,500 web site hits
- 75 educational programs for 2,349 adults and 2,054 youth
- 8 articles, 1 radio program
- 6 PowerPoint presentations

### Ocean County Culinary Arts Demonstration Garden: The Cuisine Garden

The Ocean County Culinary Arts Demonstration Garden is in the southern part of Ocean County at Ocean County's Atlantis Golf Course in Little Egg Harbor Twp. The garden produces edibles for the Ocean County Vo-Tech Culinary Arts school to use as they learn to make culinary dishes.

The adult students (and golfers) visit the garden and see, feel, smell and taste the fresh organic quality of the edibles. Rutgers Master Gardener Educator, E. Berry Jones and Chef Educator Ian Smith explain the different types of edibles and their uses in the kitchen to the students. The Cuisine Garden project was started in 2015, with 2016 being the first full year in production.

A team of 14 RMGs designed and built the raised beds in approximately 3000 sq. ft. area. The team maintains and harvests the edibles in the raised beds and containers from spring into November for the students to use. All the edibles are started from seed by the RMGs.

The team grew and harvested 1,037 pounds of edibles in 2016.

## Passaic County

Program founded in 1990

<http://ocean.njaes.rutgers.edu/garden>

Master Gardeners trained in 2016:	0
Master Gardeners currently active:	157
Master Gardeners trained to date:	411
Total Volunteer hours in 2016:	12,041
Consultation & Diagnostics:	1,974
Community Outreach:	8,172
Community Education:	118
2016 Volunteer value:	\$ 330,646
Total Volunteer hours to date:	164,810
Total Volunteer value to date:	\$ 3,580,533

### Outreach Highlights:

- 4,949 web site hits
- 147 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 74 lbs. of produce harvested and donated
- 65 educational programs, 876 adults, 509 youth

### Pollinator Garden

The Rutgers Master Gardeners of Passaic County, class of 2016, planned and installed a pollinator garden, located behind Preakness Health Care Facility, in Wayne, NJ, as the final project initiated by the class. Through contributions of space, soil, and maintenance, the county and class graduates provided the means necessary for the completion and sustainability of the project. The scope of this effort was to educate both the class and the public on the importance of native plants as a food source and habitat for some of our local pollinators. Plants were provided by a local nursery and were selected based on naturally occurring vegetation, common to Passaic County, and their benefits as a food source, i.e. phenological availability of pollen and nectar. The resulting installation efforts were praised by the county for the improvement of the spaces' aesthetics, and furthering its use as an educational tool, and guide for using native plants in the home landscape.



## Somerset County

Program founded in 1991

<http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/garden/>

Master Gardeners trained in 2016:	19
Master Gardeners currently active:	117
Master Gardeners trained to date:	314
Total Volunteer hours in 2016:	10,481
Consultation & Diagnostics:	676
Community Outreach:	680
Community Education:	1,476
2016 Volunteer value:	\$ 239,072
Total Volunteer hours to date:	164,431
Total Volunteer value to date:	\$ 3,112,600

### Outreach Highlights:

- 70,000 lbs. produce grown and donated
- 1,152 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 19 Educational programs, 330 adults, 720 youth
- 5 PowerPoint presentations created
- 4 news releases



*New Class Team (l. to rt.) Shirley Odwarka, Camille Haberle, Gail Smith, Marsha Longshore*

### New Class Training Team

The New Class Training Team is instrumental in assisting and supporting the annual training of Rutgers Master Gardeners students, the RMG program coordinator, and invited speakers during each class. The team is involved with the new class before it even begins; evaluating the course curriculum to reflect the changing needs in Somerset County and the role of Master Gardeners to meet those needs. The team plays an indispensable role assisting with orientation and interviewing the students to the RMG program. They assemble class training materials and play a greater role in the training program itself - lecturing on plant propagation and helpline diagnostics. From a support aspect, they provide students with timely program information and volunteer opportunities at the beginning of each class. And they schedule class mentors so that each student has the attention they deserve.



## Sussex County

Program founded in 1998  
<http://www.rmgsussex.org>

Master Gardeners trained in 2016:	16
Master Gardeners currently active:	145
Master Gardeners trained to date:	369
Total Volunteer hours in 2016:	6,681
Consultation & Diagnostics:	167
Community Outreach:	4,318
Community Education:	1,350
2016 Volunteer value:	\$ 178,383
Total Volunteer hours to date:	91,413
Total Volunteer value to date:	\$ 2,162,918

### Outreach Highlights:

- 551 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 389 lbs. of food and produce donated
- 62 educational programs, 1,518 adults, 544 youth
- 24 feature articles, 7 news releases
- 7 PowerPoint presentations
- 1 online article for 147 viewers

### New Partner in Serving Seniors

In 2016, RCE Sussex expanded outreach programs by establishing a new partnership with Bristol Glen, a senior living and care facility located in Newton, NJ. RCE participated in Bristol Glen's bi-monthly open house event, which brought educational outreach to the Newton area.

Rutgers Master Gardeners presented educational programming and hands-on activities and demonstrations to seniors. Some topics included grandma's favorite recipe's from the garden, how to grow and prepare vegetables, floral arranging, how different nectars impart flavors to honey, backyard bird feeding & identification, and pressed flowers.

The program was expanded through the efforts of Master Gardener volunteer Vicky Turner, Seniors focus group chairman. Rutgers Master Gardeners of Sussex County have a strong partnership with many organizations serving seniors throughout our county. Programming is shared and coordinated between these locations through the efforts of the Seniors Focus Group Volunteer Team.

Expansion of this programming reach in our county has been greeted with great enthusiasm. The partnership will continue for 2017.

## Union County

Program founded in 1987  
<http://mastergardeners-uc.org>

Master Gardeners trained in 2016:	16
Master Gardeners currently active:	271
Master Gardeners trained to date:	873
Total Volunteer hours in 2016:	7,789
Consultation & Diagnostics:	2,278
Community Outreach:	1,827
Community Education:	2,854
2016 Volunteer value:	\$ 209,248
Total Volunteer hours to date:	213,886
Total Volunteer value to date:	\$ 3,606,054

### Outreach Highlights:

- 2,391 lbs. of produce grown and donated
- 1,156 Garden Helpline client contacts
- 22 educational programs, 2,541 adults, 428 youth
- 2 news releases
- 1 PowerPoint presentation created

### Trailside Demonstration Garden

The Demonstration Garden located at Trailside Nature Center is a wonderful outdoor classroom, maintained by Master Gardeners, to teach youth skills. In cooperation with the Union County Parks Summer Camp program, Master Gardeners taught 52 campers in the "Bugs and Beyond", "Nature Crafts" and "Friday Family Fun Day" programs.

Activities included studying chick embryos, insect identification, art projects using herbs and flowers, plant scavenger hunts and stormwater management.

Fifth Graders from College Achieve Charter School in Plainfield visited the gardens to learn about vegetable gardening, entomology and tour the garden. The 52 students interviewed Master Gardeners about their work in the garden to prepare them for gardening projects at their school.

A teacher noted, "From the moment we pulled up and saw all those cars and then realized they were all volunteers there for us, I knew it was going to be a special day. The prep time that the Master Gardeners put into the workshops was quite evident. Everything ran smoothly and in an organized manner. Everyone was so patient, cheerful, and helpful with our scholars. It was so evident that these Gardeners were exceptional people who love the land and want to share this passion with the next generation."

# *Rutgers Master Gardener Program Faculty and Staff*

# RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station

## **Atlantic County**

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## **Morris County**

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## **Ocean County**

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## **Sussex County**

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# *Rutgers Master Gardener County Program Volunteer Leadership*

## **Atlantic County**

President: Barbara D'Augustine  
Vice President: Harry Young  
Treasurer: Laurie Stoner  
Secretary: Pat Kennedy  
RMGANJ Representative: MaryLou Monihan

## **Bergen County**

President: Joseph Cooper  
Vice President: Joe Papa  
Treasurer: Bruce Walenczyk  
Corresponding Secretary: Serpil Leveen  
Recording Secretary: Suzanne Danzig  
RMGANJ Representatives: Karen Pennell, Joseph Cooper

## **Burlington County**

RMGANJ Representatives: Marilyn Bidrawn, Terry Zane

## **Camden County**

President: Carl Freidrich  
Vice President: Valerie Brown, Carol Blauvelt  
Treasurer: Nelson Valentine  
Recording Secretary: Kathrine Whitaker  
RMGANJ Representatives: Nancy Sullivan, Diane Shonyo

## **Cape May County**

President: Jerry McManus  
Vice President: Barbara Douglass  
Secretary: Brenda Church

## **Cumberland County**

RMGANJ Representative: Carol Henry, Bill Martin

## **Essex County**

President: Patricia Hewitt  
Vice Presidents: Anita Gibaldi, Suzanne Broulton  
Treasurer: Kasey Goger  
Corresponding Secretary: Dennis Hillerud  
Recording Secretary: Pat McGill  
RMGANJ Representatives: Suzie Yamarone, Gail Chmura

## **Hunterdon County**

Steering Committee Chair: Nancy Mullin  
Corresponding Secretary: Tricia Deering  
RMGANJ Representative: Tricia Deering

## **Mercer County**

President: Ann Calder  
1st Vice President: Kathleen Yurwit  
2nd Vice President: Patricia Frawley  
Secretary: Stephanie Foy  
RMGANJ Representatives: Bob Robinson, Betty Scarlata,  
Theodora Wang

## **Middlesex County**

RMGANJ Representatives: Kathy Dopart, Jerri Barclay,  
Dale Duchai

## **Monmouth County**

President: Gayle Williams  
Vice President: Karen Poorvin  
Treasurer: Warren Carretta  
Corresponding Secretary: Stacy Curro  
Recording Secretary: Jim Seidel  
RMGANJ Representatives: Ellen Simonetti,  
Gayle Williams, Gordon Boak

## **Morris County**

RMGANJ Representatives:  
Pat Hudson, Stan Nathanson, Sandi Gonski, Carla Shan

## **Ocean County**

President: Jim Digney,  
Vice President: Jerry Jelletts  
Treasurer: E. Berry Jones  
Corresponding Secretary: Margaret Kerner  
Recording Secretary: Pat LaVigne  
RMGANJ Representatives: Suzanne Kean, Jim Digney

## **Passaic County**

Chairs: Regina Imperato and Bill Lauber  
Vice Presidents: Anne Kahwaty and Kathryn Sauerborn  
Treasurer: Barbara Perino  
Recording Secretary: Barbara Cook  
RMGANJ Representative: Barbara Cook

## **Somerset County**

Advisory Council Chair: Marsha Longshore  
Finance Chair: Mousumi Patel  
Recording Secretary: Mary Patten  
RMGANJ Representatives:  
Linda Madretzke

## **Sussex County**

Corresponding Secretary: Carol McCarthy  
RMGANJ Representatives: Pat Schanzlin, Jane Gardner

## **Union County**

President: Richard Leister  
Vice Presidents: Althea Llewellyn,  
David Regal, Tina Helmstetter  
Treasurer: Terry Gibbons  
Corresponding Secretary: Deborah DiMaggio  
Recording Secretary: Linda Henry  
Historian: Mary Stewart  
RMGANJ Representatives:  
Caryl Hannemann, Dolores Batz-Culp, Dennis Lenahan

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*This annual publication showcases and highlights both the overall statewide effort as well as the local training and outreach accomplishments of the Rutgers Master Gardener Program as reported by the 16 individual counties offering the program.*