

Cooperative Extension

The Master Gardener Program

The first Master Gardener program in New Jersey was established in Bergen County in 1984. Since then, thousands of Master Gardener volunteers have been trained throughout the state and have given hundreds of thousands of hours in service to the residents of New Jersey.



Master Gardeners deliver horticultural programs and educational outreach to the general public. Some people need information on garden or landscape care, control of pests in and around the home, or ways to successfully meet today's gardening challenges using environmentally sound and effective methods. People living in low-income or densely populated areas often need technical assistance and opportunities to grow more of their own food, beautify their neighborhood, or enjoy gardening within the confines of their limited space. These residents seek programs such as Cooperative Extension that provide them with unbiased, research-based information on best management practices and techniques.

Who are the Master Gardeners?

- Prospective Master Gardener volunteers are members of local communities who receive in-depth training in all aspects of gardening and horticulture by Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) and Cooperative Extension faculty and staff. Classroom and hands-on training includes topics such as plant biology, propagation, soil science, and disease and pest control.
- Master Gardeners provide volunteer hours to assist Cooperative Extension in educating New Jersey residents. Once the training and initial volunteer commitments are completed, the title of Certified Master Gardener is bestowed upon the individual. Continuing education and volunteer service are required annually to retain this title.



RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
88 Lipman Drive, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8525
Phone: 732.932.1000

Rutgers NJAES Master Gardeners are engaged in their local communities. Their activities include:

- 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



Nearly 5,000 New Jersey residents have completed the Rutgers NJAES Master Gardener training program. Of this, approximately **1,700** continue to serve Rutgers, NJAES, and Cooperative Extension beyond their initial commitment as a Master Gardener.

Anyone with an interest in gardening and a commitment to volunteer service can become a Rutgers NJAES Master Gardener — no previous education or formal training in horticulture is necessary.

Are you ready to become our newest Master Gardener? We'd love to have you join us!

For more information, please call your county Cooperative Extension office listed online at www.njaes.rutgers.edu/county or visit www.njaes.rutgers.edu/mastergardeners.

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

Photo credits, front (l. to r.): Master Gardeners of Monmouth County (photo 1 and 2), Nick Polanin (photo 3).
Photo credits, back (l. to r.): Master Gardeners of Sussex County (photo 1), Nick Polanin (photos 2 and 3).



RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
88 Lipman Drive, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8525
Phone: 732.932.1000