

Master Gardeners



Program Highlights 2019–20

- 250 certified Master Gardener volunteers gave over 18,000 hours of service, valued at \$450,000.
- Master Gardener outreach and education reached over 19,000 people with gardening and composting information.

Volunteers delivered 44 workshops on various topics, including:

- Water Wise Gardening
- Firesafe Landscaping
- Pest Management
- Vegetable Gardening
- Pest Prevention and Diagnosis
- Recycling Garden Waste
- School Gardens
- Perennials and Flowering Shrubs
- Soil and Irrigation
- Community Gardens

The UC Placer and Nevada Master Gardener Program provides volunteer training and horticultural knowledge to enhance home landscapes and garden experiences while striving to improve and preserve the quality of our natural environment. The UC Master Gardener Programs in Placer and Nevada Counties began in 1983 to meet the demands of the growing population and mitigate one-on-one requests to Extension staff for home gardening and related information.

Interest in home gardening and urban horticulture continues to grow. Gardening is the most popular hobby in the United States, and landscape/nursery crops are now the third largest agricultural crop in California. UC Master Gardeners identify issues and needs of Placer and Nevada Counties residents and develop educational activities to address these concerns in the areas of home horticulture and composting.

With the goal of shifting public perceptions of yard and garden debris from “wastes” to “resources,” the University of California Cooperative Extension’s volunteer Master Composters have engaged the public in recognizing the importance of organics management through composting, vermi-composting, and shredding/chipping/mulching. These activities alone can divert between 20 and 35 percent of a family’s garbage from the landfills and have helped Placer and Nevada Counties meet state mandated diversion rates.

The COVID-19 situation and subsequent stay-at-home order in California created a huge increase in interest for backyard gardening. The Master Gardeners were at home too, but maintained their social media pages and their phone hotline and continued to take questions through their webpage online submission form. In this way, the Master Gardeners have continued to serve their communities even during the shutdown.



Contact info

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