

# Master Gardeners



## Program Highlights 2018–19

- 275 certified Master Gardener volunteers donated over 17,000 hours of service and delivered more than 55 workshops.
- Master Gardener outreach and education reached over 17,500 people with gardening and composting information.
- 1,163 area residents attended 26 public workshops hosted by Nevada County Master Gardeners at their Demonstration Garden in Grass Valley. 86% of attendees who completed evaluations (911) said they were “Very Likely” to apply what they learned in their own gardens.
- 920 local residents attended the Placer County Master Gardeners’ “Garden Faire.” 85 people attended the “Top Ten Vegetable Gardening Tips” presentation. 44 of the 45 evaluations returned (98%) reported that they would “utilize what was learned at this presentation in their home vegetable 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 County 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 “waste” 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, vermicomposting, 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.



## Contact info

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