



**MAKING A DIFFERENCE
WHEN OUR COMMUNITIES
NEEDED US THE MOST**
IMPACT REPORT 2020



Oregon State
University



The Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener™ program educates Oregonians about the art and science of growing and caring for plants. We are in 27 counties across the state, and train thousands of Master Gardener volunteers. OSU Extension Master Gardeners are volunteer educators, neighbors, and on-the-ground researchers who serve their community with solid training in science-based, sustainable gardening and a love of lifelong learning.

MISSION

Cultivating resilient and healthy communities throughout Oregon through sustainable horticulture education and gardening projects that are rooted in science and that are supported by OSU Extension volunteers.

VISION

We provide accessible and equitable education programs that nurture life-long learners and volunteers who can expand the reach and impact of science-based sustainable gardening practices to benefit all Oregonians.



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener™

GUIDING VALUES

We are connected to Oregon State University, and use both science and local knowledge to inform our community engagement, educational outreach, and horticultural expertise. We strive to make the resources of Oregon State University accessible to all and inspire and encourage lifelong curiosity and learning through continued scientific exploration and discovery.

We are connected to our local communities, and their needs drive the work of our program. We are inclusive, where everyone is welcome, respected, valued and supported. We know that collaboration and partnership with our communities, community organizations, and neighbors make us stronger and that together, we create positive change.

We are connected to our earth, and strive for stewardship and sustainability through horticultural best practices and a conscientious approach to volunteer work in alignment with our program priorities. We aim to improve not only the lives of the people within our communities, but also the land which sustains us, and future generations.

We are driven by a sense of fun, wonder and curiosity for the natural world and a commitment of service to our local communities.

Cover photo: Hauling weeds at the Portland-area demonstration garden. Photo courtesy of John Jordan.

Prof. of Practice:
Neil Bell
Program Support:
Rachel Brandon

WE CULTIVATE HEALTHY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

34 trainees
89 Master Gardeners (61%
recertified)
2 community gardens
1 youth garden
150 lbs of produce donated
625 MG CEUs earned
2,861.19 volunteer hours valued
at \$72,760

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Community Garden

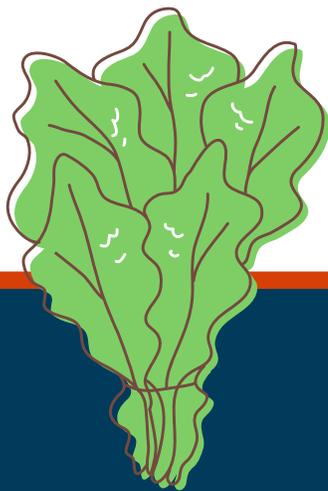
Youth Garden

Demonstration Garden

Community Events

**Extension Office Walk-Ins,
Phone, Email**

Social Media



OSU EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER IMPACTS 2020

Polk County



Master Gardener trainees and mentors examining a branch during an interactive portion of the 2020 Master Gardener Training

Demonstration Garden: The Inspiration Garden in Mountain Fir Park in Independence was started in 2012 and consisted of 7 acres overrun by blackberries and Scotch Broom. Since 2012 all of these weeds were cleared and the riparian zone was cleared of brush and restored with native plants. The IG now occupies the entire park and consists of many themed gardens including vegetables, berries and tree fruit, a rose garden, winter garden and pollinator garden as well as an oak savannah. The awarding of a seedling that survived the Hiroshima bombing prompted the creation of a Peace Garden which was completed in 2020. Along with the specimen Hiroshima tree, a renewal wall, a rubble pile to represent the destruction of war and a peace pole complete the garden along with companion plants. The garden was able to reach the community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic since it is part of a green belt in Independence and is heavily used as a pedestrian walkway.

Plant Sale: We hosted two online plant sales. The first was a trial run to the Polk County Master Gardener members, the second was offered to the Polk County community. Both were extremely successful.

Social Media: The Polk County Master Gardener Facebook page jumped from 867 followers to 1328 page followers reaching an estimated 50,000 people. Over 65 live webinars, lectures, and clinics were made available on social media.

Online Webinars/lectures/clinics: Polk County hosted its own lecture series in the spring covering a wide variety of gardening and plant topics. the recorded webinars were then shared on social media and with other county chapters.



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