

MASTER GARDENER

As **Master Gardener Volunteers**, we explore our deep horticultural roots to learn about the land on which we live and the importance of preserving its beauty. We do not take without giving back, whether it's from the Earth or in our own community. We strive to preserve the natural beauty of our community while sharing our love of gardening.

At our essence, we are volunteers who teach our community research-based gardening practices and have fun doing it.

“When I work in my flower garden, my cares and concerns temporarily vanish.

How can I be troubled when nature's beauty and serenity surround me?”

— Dianne Dicke
Shelby County
Master Gardener Volunteer



How We Grow

- **Education**
- **Cooperation**
- **Leadership**
- **Self-sufficiency**
- **Service**
- **Sustainability**



Grow With Us

Become a Master Gardener Volunteer

Becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer is an ongoing process. Your contributions to the community start during the initial course. Afterwards, you will have the skills and knowledge necessary to strengthen your relationship with the environment and the community.

To become a Master Gardener Volunteer, you'll have the opportunity to complete 50 hours of classroom training and make a difference in your community by donating 50 hours of your time to service.

As a Master Gardener Volunteer, you will learn about:

- Basic botany and plant physiology
- Soils and soil fertility
- Basic entomology
- Plant pathology
- Pest management
- Lawn care
- Perennials, annuals and bulbs
- Trees and shrubs
- Home vegetable and fruit production
- Backyard wildlife and more

In addition to learning about these important topics, you will be able to practice your skills through many volunteer opportunities. You will have exposure to information from current research and access to specialists at The Ohio State University.



Planting the Seeds for Research and Community Involvement

As Master Gardener Volunteers, we provide several resources and events for the community to help educate the public on the importance of horticulture and the issues surrounding it.

We provide annual programming for the community including events and workshops.

Some of our programming includes:

- Demonstration flower garden at the Extension office
- Gardening helpline free to Shelby, Auglaize, and Mercer Co. residents
- Shelby, Auglaize, and Mercer County Fair exhibits
- Educational programs for all ages
- Free speakers for local organizations
- Support for school and youth programs
- Assistance with the Agape People's Garden project

