



The Master Gardener Program in Clark Co. started in 1997. Over 115 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 15 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2015. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Crops/Soils Agent Richard Halopka.

Offering Affordable Activities

Local MGV-sponsored activities that are free, or offered at a very reasonable cost to the participants and vendors, provide greater public inclusion. Requiring low or no fees for a bus tour, community garden plot, plant sale booths, and garden video presentations resulted in increased participation by Clark County residents and greater exposure to science-based gardening information.

Ask a Master Gardener Program Inquiries Increase

Both seasoned and newly certified MGVs participate in the *Ask a Master Gardener* program to provide quality responses to garden-related questions received from residents in Clark County. Although detailed records were not kept in previous years, the estimated number of inquiries answered of approximately 2 per week during the growing season is a marked increase this year as the public becomes more aware of this local program.

Assisting UW-Extension with MG Training

The local UW-Extension Educator involved MGVs in student training by utilizing their assistance during class sessions. Several members also attended the final exam session and greenhouse tour hosted by the Loyal High School agricultural instructor. This valued participation and mentorship allowed current certified MGVs to become more acquainted with students and provided encouragement for students to go on to complete training and become certified.

The Master Gardener Program in Clark County

Clark Co. UW-Extension Office
 517 Court St. Room 104
 Neillsville, WI 54456
www.co.clark.wi.us

Volunteer Service in 2016

Youth Ed	44	hours
Adult Ed	792	hours
Support	492	hours
Total	616	hours
Value*	\$13,848	

Since 2000: 21,666 hours at a value of over \$383,703

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of \$22.48 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.



Where you can find activities by MGVs in Clark Co.

- Abbotsford Community Garden
- Clark County Courthouse Garden
- Clark County Fairgrounds Garden
- Clark County Humane Society Garden
- Dorchester Community Garden
- Clark County Fair booth
- Neillsville Community Garden
- Neillsville Public Library Garden

