

Master Gardener Logic Model

INPUTS

Situation
 There is an increasing need for educational assistance on home and garden issues throughout the Southeastern states.
 There is an increasing need for educated volunteers to assist agents in services the growing local demand for home and garden sector.

Extension Agents:
 Extension Specialists:
 Local experts:
 State Master Gardener Coordinators:

Materials
 Manuals, extension publications
 Master Gardener Manual and curriculum
 Standardized pre- and post-test

Funding: State and local funds, fee from those being trained as Master Gardeners

Other Materials: Binders, Copies of PowerPoint presentations, Marketing and Promotional Materials, Purchased resources

OUTPUTS

Activities
 Training of Master Gardeners (usually 12-15 weekly 2-3 hour sessions)
 Sessions taught by specialists and agents and local experts

Master Gardener Curriculum:

Core Curriculum:
 - Cooperative Extension/Volunteerism
 - Basic Botany
 - Soils and Fertility
 - Plant Pathology
 - Entomology
 - Pesticides, IPM and Pesticide Safety

Additional topics as defined by agent:
 - Annual & Perennial Flowers
 - Woody Plants
 - Fruits
 - Vegetables
 - Landscape Design
 - Interior Plants others

Teaching techniques
 Extension procedures

Participation
 Community volunteers interested in advanced horticulture instruction and in giving back to the community by assisting local agent.

OUTCOMES

Short Term
 Participants gain knowledge in many aspects of home horticulture. In the near future this may be measured in pre- and post-tests of participants as they are trained

Number of volunteers participating in MG classes.

Number of volunteers mastering MG curriculum with a final exam score of $\geq 75\%$.
 - Interior Plants others

Medium Term
 Number of volunteers involved in actively repaying volunteer hours.

Number of Volunteer hours served by MG graduates.

Number of classes, lectures or workshops delivered by MG graduates.

Number of MG graduates utilizing environmentally friendly (IPM) techniques.
 - Interior Plants others

Long Term
 Extending the outreach of the Cooperative Extension Service by improving gardening and communication skills of Master Gardeners, thus creating a pool of volunteers with the abilities and willingness to apply their gardening skills in leading and educating the public through community education projects and activities such as beautification, community gardens, youth gardening, heirloom gardening and seed preservation, better maintenance of lawns and gardens, interpretative trails, butterfly gardens and more.

Assumptions

External Factors

- A core curriculum will be offered as the Master Gardener Program however counties will be able to add optional sessions to tailor the program to county or community needs.
- Trained Master Gardeners will be required to pay back a certain number of volunteer hours in return for their participation in the program.
- Counties and the universities will have the resources to continue to offer this program.
- There will be continued strong demand for homeowner horticulture information which will stretch the resources of Cooperative Extension Service's ability to respond to this demand.

DRAFT

Evaluation

Potential indicators for success (questions for agents conducting the program):

Number of new Master Gardeners trained?

Number of existing Master Gardeners active in the program over the past year?

Number of volunteer hours contributed by Master Gardeners?

Number of client contacts made by Master Gardeners in county educational/service programs?

Open ended question: Examples of educational programs initiated or led by Master Gardener volunteers?

Just a note—on the national level there is an interest in changing the name of these volunteers to Extension Master Gardeners to better brand the fact that it is a Cooperative Extension program.