UVM Extension Master Gardener supports the University of Vermont by recruiting, training and overseeing volunteers who promote successful, safe, and environmentally prudent home horticulture practices through education and community outreach activities.
The Vermont Extension Master Gardener (EMG) program has three basic functions: **member education** by training new Extension Master Gardener and Vermont Master Composter students and providing continuing education to members, **operating the Garden Information Helpline**, and **placing EMG volunteer educators in outreach projects** throughout Vermont.

UVM Extension Master Gardener's guiding principle is IPM, Integrated Pest Management. All training and advice is geared towards an ecological approach to home gardening with the main goal of significantly reducing or eliminating the use of pesticides.
# PROGRAM MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

## Extension Master Gardener Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heather Carrington</td>
<td>State Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Chouinard</td>
<td>Program Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trish Kargman</td>
<td>Member Support</td>
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## Extension Master Gardener Advisory Board

The Advisory Board is comprised of two EMG volunteer representatives from each of the seven Vermont chapters. Terms run two years and begin each October. Board members collaborate directly with the EMG state office on the revision and/or development of program policy and operations and advise the state coordinator on chapter needs.

## Local Chapters

At the county level, Extension Master Gardener is divided into seven local chapters:

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<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bennington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
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<td>Rutland</td>
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<td>Windham</td>
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<td>Windsor</td>
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## Chapter Steering Teams

Each of the seven local chapters is coordinated by EMG volunteers who serve on their local Chapter Steering Team. The Steering Teams act as the coordinating groups for their Chapters and serve as the primary conduit to the state office regarding the Chapter’s operations. The function of the Team is to develop their annual calendar of events, manage chapter business, oversee project compliance and approve all new projects with guidance from the state office. The Team is also responsible for recognizing outstanding EMGs and for welcoming new interns each spring.

## Project Leaders

The Project Leader serves as the facilitator and primary contact for each of over 100 statewide EMG projects. Planning work days and sending out volunteer opportunity announcements to the Chapter listserv are the responsibility of the Project Leader(s), as is organizing the volunteer efforts at the site.
EDUCATION: EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER

Over 3,000 Vermonters have taken the Extension Master Gardener (EMG) course since the program's inception in 1991.

The Extension Master Gardener Course offers 45 hours of basic plant and soil science training that integrates Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles. The course includes 39 lecture hours plus 6 hours of on-line training through the National Plant Diagnostic Network. The NPDN training results in a network of "First Detector" volunteers prepared to report unusual disease and pest observations and to submit suspect samples to Vermont's NPDN diagnostic lab. Following the course, EMG graduates participate in a 40 hour Internship of experiential learning within approved education projects under the direction of Certified Extension Master Gardeners.

98.5% of 2014 students reported having a better understanding of how to employ integrated pest management techniques and 83% have changed their gardening practices as a result of the course.
Over 800 Vermonters have completed the Vermont Master Composter course.

Vermont Master Composters have completed the Vermont Master Composter Training Program, which consists of a four class mini-course, followed by an internship of twenty hours of community outreach. At the completion of the program, Vermont Master Composters are familiar with composting methods, recipes, biology, and the uses of compost. They are also mentored through the basics of how to teach others and what assistance is available for holding courses, putting on displays, or doing other volunteer work that contributes to the sustainable use of organic materials.

86% of Master Composter students have changed the way they dispose of organic materials as a result of the course.

“I will now know how to properly manage the bins and change the mixture at Manchester Elementary Middle School when problems arise. This is our second year of on-site composting and I feel more confident going forward” – Master Composter student
In 2013, 677 active EMGs provided:

Over 100 ongoing approved EMG projects for educational outreach across Vermont. Projects address four focus areas: Sustainable Landscapes, Local Foods, Invasive Species, and Water Quality. EMG projects are located at schools, community gardens, prisons, assisted living facilities, fairgrounds, parks and municipal streets.

EMG information tables at 10 different farmers’ markets and 8 agricultural fairs around the state to address consumer’s questions about pest and disease management in the home garden and landscape.
In 2013 the UVM EMG Helpline, managed by the EMG state office and staffed by 18 trained volunteers, answered over 1000 calls and 315 emails on using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices in home gardens and landscapes to manage pests and diseases.

Over 100 plant samples were diagnosed by the EMG Helpline volunteers.

“Thank you very much for your detailed response about sap from the pinus strobus. Such good information. We no longer will be parking underneath white pine trees! UVM Extension Master Gardener is such a wonderful organization!”

– Helpline client

Since 1991, over 43,000 Vermonters have called the EMG Helpline to receive help with their home horticulture questions.
Extension Master Gardeners provide education about sustainable landscape practices for home gardeners. These include reduction of stormwater run-off through the use of rain gardens, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques for pest control, creating and enhancing wildlife habitat, soil management techniques, including composting kitchen and yard wastes, to maintain and enhance healthy soil that supports a diversity of soil life, using native plants to reduce the need for excessive maintenance practices and reducing lawn area to reduce air and water pollution due to fossil fuel use.
EMG's are involved in teaching vegetable and fruit gardening skills for local food production.

These projects take place at schools, community gardens, community centers and corrections facilities through workshops, lectures and hands-on gardening assistance.
All EMG students are required to complete the First Detector training modules through the National Plant Diagnostic Network. These modules provide EMG's with the ability to **monitor for high risk pests** and diagnose plant problems, which prepares them to **educate their communities about invasive plants and pests.**
UVM Extension Master Gardeners’ training is based on the guiding principle of IPM, Integrated Pest Management. All training and advice is geared towards an ecological approach to home gardening with the main goal of significantly reducing or eliminating the use of pesticides. This approach helps to protect the quality of Vermont surface water by reducing unnecessary use of pesticides and fertilizers which can contribute to nonpoint source pollution through stormwater run-off.
Project List

George Aiken Wildflower Trail at the Bennington Museum
Walloomsac Farmers’ Market Info Table
Bennington Project Independence Garden
Morgan Springs Community Garden
Mount Anthony Middle School Garden
Chapter Newsletter
Annual Plant Sale

BENNINGTON CHAPTER

7 Projects
442 Hours
34 Volunteers
$9,967 Value
CENTRAL CHAPTER

Project List

Stowe Free Library Teaching gardens
Stowe Free Library Winter Series
Johnson Community Garden
Morristown Elementary School Gardens
4-H Gardening Program Advisors
CCV Garden to Give Back
Crops By Kids Partners
Rusty Parker Memorial Park
Justin Morrill Homestead

State House Garden
Kellogg-Hubbard Library
People’s Health and Wellness Clinic
Cutler Memorial Library
East Warren Schoolhouse
Randolph Farmers’ Market
Montpelier Farmers’ Market
North Branch Nature Center
Educational Pollinator Garden
Willing Hands – Community Garden

18 Projects
1,757 Hours

121 Volunteers
$39,620 Value
NORTHEAST KINGDOM CHAPTER

Project List

Lyndon Institute Garden & Greenhouse - Gardening with youth
Lyndon Institute Garden & Greenhouse – 2 Day Class
Lyndon Institute Garden & Greenhouse – Adult Education
EMG Info Tables
4-H Gardening Advisors
Community Farm Project

6 Projects 311 Hours

35 Volunteers $7,013 Value
NORTHWEST CHAPTER

Project List
Vergennes Community Garden
Starksboro Community Garden
Starksboro Elementary School Garden Club
Bridport Garden
Therapeutic Garden for Porter Nursing Home
Russell Memorial Library
Parent Child Center Greenhouse
Garden Information Table in Middlebury
Bristol Farmers’ Market
Addison County Field Days
Cooking with Herbs
Taylor Park Center Garden
St. Albans Gardening Night Out
EMG PLANT SALE
St. Albans Farmers’ Market
Church Street Garden Project
Down To Earth Community Garden
Milton Family Community Center Food Shelf

37 Projects
6,060 Hours
324 Volunteers
$136,653 Value

Burlington City Hall Gardens
UVM Teaching & Demo. Gardens
UVM Hort. Farm
Burlington Farmers’ Market
Vermont Respite House Garden
Plant a Row for the Hungry-Williston
Williston in Bloom
TREEage
Deborah Rawson Library Garden
Smilie Elementary Instructional Greenhouse and Gardens
Essex Jct Library
Vermont Garden Park
Rick Marcotte Central School Vegetable Garden
Growing Together Community Garden
Horticultural Therapy
Milton Family Community Center Food Shelf
EMG Info Tables
Project List
Annual EMG Plant Sale
The Vermont State Fair Grounds
Mount Holly School Composting Project
"Gardens for Learning" at the Boys and Girls Club
"Gardens for Learning" at the State Fair Grounds
Middletown Springs Elementary School Garden Project
The Old Homestead Garden
"Scamp Camp" & Castleton Community/Senior Center
Benson Heights Senior Garden
Trailhead Gardens at Pine Hill Park
Rutland County Extension Master Gardener Outreach
Rutland Chapter Extension Master Gardener Facebook Community
Rutland Community Growing Project in Partnership with PEG TV
The Victory Garden Project
WINDHAM CHAPTER

10 Projects
768 Hours
32 Volunteers
$17,318 Value

Project List

Bellows Falls Farmers’ Market
Brattleboro Farmers’ Market
Brattleboro Hospice Garden
Dummerston Rain Garden
Dummerston School
Howard Dean Education Center
Parks Place Project
Post Oil Solutions
Townshend Farmers’ Market
Youth Agriculture Project
WINDSOR CHAPTER

15 Projects
1296 Hours

69 Volunteers
$29,225 Value

Project List

- Parks Place Gardening Project
- First Congregational Church Revitalization
- Ludlow Area Community Garden
- Ludlow Streetscapes
- Howard Dean Education Center
- Springfield Community Gardens
- Springfield Recycling Center
- Springfield Recycling Center Plant Sale
- Justin Morrill Homestead
- Willing Hands Farm Project
- Upper Valley Haven Garden Project
- Hartland Community Herb Garden
- State Street School Garden
- Windsor Chapter Newsletter
- EMG Info Tables
EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS DONATE THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

2013 VALUE TO VERMONT

*$294,819

* Based on Independent Sector 2013 Valuation of Volunteer Time

13,074 Volunteer Hours

677 Active Volunteers
Master Gardener is entirely self supporting. Operating funds for Extension Master Gardener come from course fees, member dues, grants, business sponsorships, and contributions of EMG members. Seeking funding sources is an ongoing effort for the EMG state office.

**REVENUE 2013-2014**

$148,409

- **EMG Course Registration Fees** 43%
- **Faculty Grant Allocations** 27%
- **Agency of Natural Resources Compost Grant** 20%
- **Member Dues and Gifts** 8%
- **Product Sales** 2%
University of Vermont Extension and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating, offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.