It's Spring!
(Well..almost)

Dear Master Gardeners & Composters and Alumni,

Spring is in the air and we would love to extend a big thank you to everyone who submitted 2018 volunteer hours and stories this January. The more we hear from you the more we can share all the great things you are doing around the state.

The 2018 volunteer hours form is now closed for the season. Having a deadline allows us to gather all the statistics to report to the National EMG program. Next year the form will be open from December 1-January 31, to allow for us to gather the statistics for the national program by the end of February. So, going forward please don’t forget to always report in December and January!

If you are an active volunteer planning to start a new project this spring or
During 2018 there were 356 active volunteers in Vermont, that made 72,916 contacts with the public, 12,156 contacts of which were with Vermont youth.

Master Gardener volunteers also reported donating 105,316 pounds of produce. What an astounding contribution Master Gardeners are making around the state!

~Beret, Lisa, Cindy

---

My name is Sujata Gautam, I am a Master Composter Intern and ECO AmeriCorps volunteer serving with the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWMD). During my volunteer internship, I created an educational compost trivia game for attendees to try out during
describing to community members how they can collect food scraps for composting purposes. Almost 90 people have now viewed it on YouTube. You can watch it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnXprgs4cUg

To celebrate International Composting Awareness Week, I organized composting workshops at the Lamoille Soil composting facility. Attendees learned how the composting process works and its importance to soil health. I also participated in eleven different farmers markets throughout the Lamoille Region, including Stowe, Worcester, Johnson, Morrisville, and Jeffersonville. At these events, people could come to the Lamoille Soil tent to play educational games centered around composting and recycling. One of our goals was to raise awareness about the contamination issue that occurs with PLUs (produce stickers,) that end up in compost piles. Many of the attendees who stopped by also asked questions about how to “compost correctly” or how to “fix their compost pile.” At these events, I reached over 300 people.

The personal interactions and conversations I had throughout this past year were invaluable. Several people, I met started collecting food scraps after speaking with me. It was great to see their behavior change after they learned about the issues. I hope there is a ripple effect. I'd like more and more people composting and diverting their food scraps from the landfill.

Master Gardeners Doing Cool Things
NW Chapter’s UVM Greenhouse Tour. EMG student Stina Booth says, "It was fun to see the number and variety of plants they have. Seeing coffee and cocoa beans growing in VT is pretty unusual!" Collen, the greenhouse manager, mentioned that some of the citrus trees (lemons & limes) are much colder hardier than I thought." (Photo by Stina Booth)

The Northwest Chapter steering team is all smiles following the successful kick-off chapter meeting with more than 50 attendees in Burlington. (Photo by Cindy Heath)
Rutland chapter Master Gardeners prepare tea towels for printing to be distributed to project leaders and steering team members around the state as a thank you for the wonderful volunteer leadership efforts. (Photo by Cindy Heath)

Are you a Master Gardener or who's been unable to volunteer for 2 or more years but you want to volunteer this upcoming season?

Now is the time to reactivate!!

Click here for the form

Information to Advance your Gardening Knowledge!

June 17-21, 2019

Pennsylvania is excited to host this year’s International Master Gardeners Conference and we are looking forward to welcoming more than 1000 participants in June in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

The Early Registration deadline is April 14th
Upcoming Online Class on *Trees, Shrubs, and Conifers: Identification and Use* with NC State University

More info [CLICK HERE](https://www.internationalmastergardener.com/)

---

Vermont Healthy Soils Coalition Soils Series has two more events in Randolph in April.

*Grassroots for the Climate Emergency*

More info [HERE](https://www.internationalmastergardener.com/)

---

The Vermont Organics Recycling Summit is coming up on April 11 at VTC in Randolph

More info [HERE](https://www.internationalmastergardener.com/)

---

Great New books!

Community Scale Composting

More info [HERE](https://www.internationalmastergardener.com/)

The Worm Farmers Handbook

Click [HERE](https://www.internationalmastergardener.com/)

---

Registration is now open for the [2019 Vermont Arbor Day Conference](https://www.internationalmastergardener.com/).

Come learn, celebrate, and network with the citizen tree stewards, municipal leaders, and professionals of our state’s urban and community forests. The keynote speaker is author, mountaineer, adventurer, athlete, and Vermonter [Jan Reynolds](https://www.internationalmastergardener.com/), author of the book, *The Glass Summit: One Woman’s Epic Journey Breaking Through*. 
Congratulations to our newest Master Gardeners and Composters!

The following people completed their internship hours in 2018

**Master Gardeners**

Kimberley Adams - 2018
Wendelyn Bolles - 2018
Tami Lewis Brown - 2018
  Karen Burke - 2018
  Bob Chutter - 2018
  Susan Cromwell - 2018
  Shelly Davis - 2018
  Tad Dippel - 2018
  Steven Fellows - 2018
Shawn Fetterolf - 2018
Shawn Flanigan - 2018
Victoria Gauvin - 2018
Eleni Goranites - 2018
Emily Hilbert - 2018
Hayley Hornus - 2018
Mary Ann Johnson - 2018
  Lisa Kent - 2018
  Bartlett Leber - 2018
  Cathy Molloy - 2018
  Joelyn Niggel - 2018
  Amber Pacheco - 2018
  Jay Petrillo - 2018
  Linda Pitkin - 2018
  Kenneth Potwin - 2018
  Aaron Retherford - 2018
  Stephanie Smith - 2018
  Kylie St. Francis - 2018
  Donna Thomas - 2018
  Karen Tuininga - 2018
  Doris Atkins Van Mullen - 2018
  Amanda Wheeler - 2018
  Cheryl Willoughby - 2018
Master Composters
Caroline Aubry - 2018
Shelly Davis - 2018
Sujata Gautam - 2018
Emily Goyette - 2018
Jo Mirenda - 2018
Laura Morse - 2018
Linda Pitkin - 2018
Kevin Stine - 2018

The Helpline is now OPEN for the season! Volunteers are answering the phones on Mondays and Thursdays from 9-12 in April. If you have questions, please give us a call, and don’t forget to refer others to the helpline. This spring we have 2 new interns joining us at the helpline. Please
A few common questions we are hearing this time of year include:

How do I prepare the soil this spring?
How do I interpret soil test reports from last fall?
What can be done to avoid an insect or disease I experienced last year?
(Swede midge, Leaf miner etc.).
When is the best time to prune fruit trees and lilacs?
What is this household insect invading my home?
What is wrong with my houseplant?

Test Yourself

QUESTION OF THE MONTH: Swede Midge

Last year for the first time I lost broccoli and cauliflower to swede midges. They started feeding after the first crop was maturing, mostly on my cauliflower. I lost half of the 1st cauliflower crop, and the broccoli produced all season, but with some damage. How do I prevent this from happening again this year?

**ANSWER: By Gabriella Maia**

The best management strategy is prevention.

- Crop rotation is important (the midge can build up in the soil). Avoid planting the same crop (or same plant family) in the same area in your garden every year. If crop damage is severe you might need to break the insect’s life cycle (see Cornell link below).
- Start with clean/insect free plants (or start from seed)
- Keep garden free of weeds (especially the ones in the broccoli family). The Cornell website also mentions Shepherd’s purse and wild mustard. The pigweed/lamb’s quarter are not in this plant family. However keeping your garden free of weeds is also good to prevent other pests and diseases from affecting your vegetables.
Remove and destroy all crop residue (stalks, roots) immediately after harvest to avoid "harboring" the pest in infested plant material from one season to the next.

- For more info go to Cornell’s website. Click HERE
- Looking to plant disease resistant vegetable varieties this year? Cornell Plant Pathology Website has lot of great info on what to plant.

Save the Date!

"Caring for People, Plants and our Planet"

The 2019 UVM Extension Master Gardener State Conference
at the Shelburne Museum Pizzagalli Center for Art & Education

November 2, 2019

Special Thanks to:

2018, Nursery, Garden Center & Publisher Partners
Thank you!
Agway/Garland's Farm and Garden
Submit an Event to our Calendar

Recruit Master Gardeners and Interns to help on your project.

Keep the EMG state network updated on what’s happening in your region.

Click here to Submit

Help us Grow!

The UVM Extension Master Gardener Program cultivates gardening communities through volunteer education and demonstration. Our volunteers work throughout the state to promote successful, safe, and environmentally prudent home horticulture practices. As a self-funded
Click here to DONATE TODAY!

Copyright © *2019*

Contact us:
Beret Halverson, State & Education Coordinator
Lisa Chouinard, Office & Helpline Support
Cindy Health, Volunteer Coordinator

University of Vermont | 63 Carrigan Dr. | 206 Jeffords | Burlington, VT 05405

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.