

DUTCHESS COUNTY

MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

- Horticulture Hotline & Diagnostic Lab, F&HC, Millbrook.
Volunteers are trained to answer homeowner insect and gardening questions on the hotline. Also, soil pH testing, insect ID, plant ID and diagnosis.
Wednesdays from 9- noon, April- Oct.
- Dutchess County Farm & Home Center Display Gardens, Millbrook.
Gardens at the F&HC require designing, planting, labeling, watering and routine maintenance (edging, weeding, etc). Tours are offered to the public. These gardens serve as "outdoor classrooms". Flexible schedule. April-frost.
The Sustainable/Attainable
Garden Shade Garden
Compost Demonstration Area
- Greenhouse, F&HC, Millbrook.
Volunteers receive training in all aspects of greenhouse growing practices. Plants are grown for use in our demonstration gardens as well as for our annual Plant Sale. Mid- March- June.
- Plant Sale, F&HC, Millbrook
Yearly plant sale of annuals, vegetables, herbs & perennials. Held in mid May. Volunteers needed for planning, set up/cleanup, cashier, sales and assisting customers on day of plant sale.
- MG Booth at Dutchess County Fair, Horticulture Building, Rhinebeck.
August. Volunteers work at our booth in 3 hour shifts, answering gardening questions from the public.
- Information Booths
Staff booths at local farm markets, local garden centers or various events. Spring-fall.
- Speakers Bureau
A group of MG volunteers who are available to give talks or lectures to garden clubs, civic groups, etc in Dutchess County. Speakers may have a prepared lecture on a specific topic or may speak on a variety of topics. Year round.

Cornell Cooperative partially funds Cooperative Extension programming in Dutchess County. Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. The County of Dutchess

- Dutchess Dirt gardening newsletter
Write articles for our on-line gardening newsletter. Published monthly.
- Create a Project!
Examples are: working with the elderly, schools, towns, etc. Project must be educational to public. Project proposals must be submitted to and approved by CCE- DC staff before being undertaken.
- Committees-meetings held at F&HC or sometimes MG homes:
 - Garden Design Committees**
Teams of volunteers work together to create designs for the Dutchess County Farm and Home Center Demonstration Gardens. Winter- spring.
 - Plant Sale Committees**
Teams of volunteers makes plans to ensure our yearly sale is a success. Winter- spring.
- Trip Planning Committee
MGs coordinate trips & tours to gardens (private or public), garden centers or other educational places of interest. Trips may be local or long distance, a few hours, all day or overnight. Volunteers choose locations and gather information on available dates, fees, etc to plan trips. Year round.