

CCE Erie County Master Gardener Program

MG Acceptable/Non-Acceptable Volunteer Activities

There must be an educational purpose and/or teaching component to all approved activities.

Examples of **ACCEPTABLE** Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener activities are:

1. Answer consumer/home gardener's telephone and email inquiries and assist Extension office visitors with plant and insect samples for identification or diagnosis, and give general pesticide recommendations (Garden Hotline).
2. Assist with Extension educational programming, such as talks for local organizations, Extension-sponsored workshops, exhibits, displays, etc.
3. Write research-based gardening and horticultural information for fact sheets, newsletters, newspapers, magazines, websites, blogs, etc.
4. Design or assist with establishing and maintaining **educational** demonstration gardens, such as community, healing, school, pollinator, and Extension office gardens.
5. Develop or assist with community-based environmental stewardship projects, including community composting
6. Assist teachers, 4-H volunteers and youth, and/or children with gardening education projects.
7. Conduct/teach horticultural related clinics, pruning, or other demonstrations at Extension offices, local libraries, farmers markets, government centers, fairs, expos, garden clubs, civic groups, community events, flower shows, etc.
8. Teach on use of culinary herbs.
9. Teach Master Gardener training sessions.
10. Serve on municipal street tree/shade tree committee.
11. Create or prepare visuals/graphics, such as posters, flyers, program announcements, table top displays for horticultural programs and/or publications.
12. Host, produce, or appear as guest on radio/ TV and/or use station's radio/ TV equipment.
13. Photograph Extension/MG events.
14. Solicit donations and/or sponsorships to benefit the Master Gardener program.
15. Haul materials such as plants, program displays, soil clinic totes or other materials in his/her own vehicle in support of Extension projects.
16. Provide assistance to horticultural therapy programs for emotionally/physically/mentally disabled persons, nursing homes, hospitals, state/county prisons, youth detention centers.
17. Organize and/or lead educational bus trips/tours and garden tours related to horticulture.
18. Open his/her garden to the public for educational tours/demonstration.
19. Assist with data collection, testing, and evaluating new varieties for vegetable, turf, ornamentals, and/or flowers research projects.

20. Assist with or organize horticultural files in Extension office.
21. Serve on Extension Association Board, Extension Advisory committees or as liaison between the Extension office and municipal officials.
22. Assist with fundraisers approved by supervising Extension staff.
23. Conduct other activities as determined by local needs and the prior approval of supervising Extension staff.

The following activities are **NOT ACCEPTABLE** for Master Gardener volunteer service:

1. Develop and deliver training for garden center employees, ground manager, and nursery personnel, unless approved by Extension.
2. Teach pruning to municipal tree trimmer (arborist).
3. Design gardens/landscapes for schools or communities that are **non-educational**.
4. Maintenance of garden spaces for schools, civic groups, communities without an educational or outreach component.
5. Organize community garden club.
6. Establish and manage a farmers market.
7. Glean fields/orchards for distribution to food bank.
8. Teach or make recommendations about the use of medicinal herbs.

If activity is not described above, contact county Master Gardener Coordinator for determination of whether it is acceptable for volunteer service hours.