

General Meetings & Continuing Education

The Penn State Master Gardeners of Cumberland County meet every other month to stay connected with current and future activities. A recognition ceremony, plant exchange, summer picnic, and holiday party are special events held each year. Master Gardeners also attend gardening seminars and conferences to keep up-to-date with the latest in horticultural research.

Being a Master Gardener is a great way to meet fellow gardening enthusiasts and volunteer your time in our communities across Cumberland County.

How Can You Become a Penn State Master Gardener of Cumberland County?

The Penn State Master Gardener program is for everyone who has a strong interest in learning research-based information on gardening and are committed to sharing their knowledge with the public through volunteer service. Contact the Penn State Extension Office to find out more details about the program and when the next basic training course for certification is scheduled.

Becoming a Master Gardener involves a considerable amount of time and effort. Each candidate interested in the program submits an application, attends an information session, and completes an interview. Not all applicants are accepted.

The Penn State Master Gardener training course for certification includes weekly online classes, monthly in-person sessions at the Penn State Extension office, a midterm, and a final exam. Classes are held on Thursday evenings, 6:00pm-8:15pm, from October through March. The \$200 course fee covers the cost of the Penn State Master Gardener manual, training materials, and expenses. Payment plan information is available upon request.

To achieve certification, candidates must complete the training course, score a 80% or higher on the midterm and final exam, complete a presentation, and volunteer 50 hours to the Penn State Extension Master Gardener Program during the first program year (October 1 - September 30).

Each subsequent year, 20 hours of volunteer service and 10 hours of continuing education are required to remain a certified Penn State Master Gardener volunteer.



SCAN ME

<https://extension.psu.edu/programs/master-gardener/counties/cumberland/become-a-master-gardener-in-cumberland-county>

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Find us on  CumberlandExtension



Scan this QR Code to visit our interactive map of the Master Gardener demonstration gardens in Cumberland County!



Scan this QR Code to visit the website of the Penn State Master Gardeners in Cumberland County and read full descriptions about each demonstration garden in the county!

(<https://extension.psu.edu/programs/master-gardener/counties/cumberland/demonstration-gardens>)

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The Penn State Master Gardener volunteer program supports the outreach mission of Penn State Extension by utilizing unbiased research-based information to educate the public and our communities on best practices in sustainable horticulture and environmental stewardship.

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A Guide to the Penn State Master Gardener Volunteer Program in Cumberland County



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A Sampling of Master Gardener Volunteer Activities in Cumberland County

Penn State Master Gardeners

are trained volunteers who support the outreach mission of Penn State Extension by utilizing unbiased research-based information to educate the public and our communities on best practices in sustainable horticulture and environmental stewardship. Penn State Master Gardeners in Cumberland County serve as a bridge between our communities, Penn State University, and Penn State Extension through the following programs and demonstration gardens.

Adams Ricci Butterfly Garden

The Adams Ricci Butterfly Garden is located near the Midway Pavilion at Adams Ricci Park, 100 E. Penn Drive, Enola in East Pennsboro Township. The garden was planted in 2017 and received the Master Gardener Search for Excellence first place award as the best demonstration garden in the state in 2018. A pollinator shrub border was planted on the northwest corner of the garden in 2019. Each year, Master Gardeners host seasonal programs open to the public and offer free group garden tours with two weeks notice.

Allen Road Gardens

These Master Gardener demonstration gardens are located at the Cumberland County Service Center at 310 Allen Road in Carlisle, which houses the Penn State Extension office in Cumberland County. In addition to tree care, a composting demonstration area, and a weather station, the featured gardens include the Pollinator-Friendly Certified Alcove Garden, Entrance Garden, Groundcover Garden, Herb Garden, Pollinator Garden, Large and Small Rain Gardens, Green Rooftop Garden, Sculpture Garden, Winners Garden, Winter Garden, and Xeriscape Garden.

Conodoguinet Youth Park Gardens

These gardens located at 515 Orrs Bridge Road in Mechanicsburg were designed to enhance the park as an outdoor classroom for environmental education. Working in partnership with Girl Scout Troop #597 and the Penn State Master Gardeners of Cumberland County, this Hampden Township park received the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) award as a Certified Wildlife Habitat and a Monarch Butterfly Waystation.

Gardening with Nature Program Series

The *Gardening with Nature* program series is held at the Fredricksen Library in Camp Hill and features presentations on diverse gardening topics about creating beautiful gardens while preserving a healthy environment.

Kings Gap Mansion Garden

This beautiful educational garden started in 1992 is located at Kings Gap, a DCNR environmental education and training center on South Mountain. Situated at the top of the mountain and enclosed within the stone walls of the original mansion garden are herb and knot garden beds, native shade, meadow, and woodland gardens, a pond, and a compost demonstration area that provide education and four-season beauty. The Master Gardeners perform regular garden maintenance as well as conduct programs and garden tours in partnership with the Kings Gap staff.

Plant Clinic & Garden Hotline

To assist county residents and home gardeners in diagnosing lawn, landscape, and garden problems, Master Gardeners use their knowledge to identify the problem and provide research-based environmentally sustainable recommendations. The Master Gardeners conduct the Garden Hotline at the Penn State Extension office in Carlisle during the growing season, and conduct a plant clinic at the Fredricksen Library in Camp Hill during the summer months.

Plant Fest & Sale

This annual plant sale held the third Saturday in May features plants from area growers and treasured plants from the gardens of Master Gardeners including sun and shade perennials, native plants, pollinator-friendly plants, vegetables, herbs, groundcovers, small trees, shrubs, bulbs, and houseplants. Educational displays, a plant clinic, a gardener's yard sale, youth gardening activity station, and local community organizations and vendors are included.

Pollinator Education

Master Gardeners host educational programs and maintain demonstration gardens promoting the best practices in pollinator-friendly gardening and the Penn State Pollinator Friendly Garden Certification. Pollinator gardens are located at the Dickinson College Kaufman Hall at 400 W North Street in Carlisle, Craighead House at 318 E Old York Road in Carlisle, and at the Cumberland County Historical Society Two Mile House at 1189 Walnut Bottom Road in Carlisle.

Speakers Bureau, Workshops, and Displays

Master Gardeners offer high-quality, low-cost annual gardening programs and demonstrations to the public that provide unbiased, research-based information on a variety of gardening topics. Master Gardeners are available to provide guest programs to diverse audiences at meetings and programs hosted by community organizations. Master Gardeners also staff informational booths and offer educational displays on a variety of gardening topics at horticultural events and community festivals.

Therapeutic Horticulture

Health care professionals recognize the therapeutic effect plants and gardening can have on ill, elderly, and disabled individuals. The Master Gardeners provide seasonal therapeutic horticulture activities at extended care, adult day care facilities, and senior centers.

Trial and Idea Gardens

The Master Gardeners offer educational events for the public and maintain six educational demonstration gardens located near the intersection of Claremont Road and Army Heritage Drive on the grounds of the Claremont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center at 1000 Claremont Road in Carlisle. Each year new annual varieties are grown and evaluated in the Trial Garden to provide county residents with a list of proven choices for their own gardens. Since 2000, the gardens have expanded to include the Pollinator-Friendly Certified Garden, Rock Garden, Shade Garden, Sign Garden, and the Memorial Garden featuring a 9/11 memorial Red Oak tree.

Youth Gardens and Programs

The Youth Gardens at the Cumberland County Service Center at 310 Allen Road in Carlisle are a series of educational demonstration gardens grown and maintained for the annual Youth Summer Garden Camp for youth ages 7-12. During five sessions held every two weeks from June to August, campers experience hands-on gardening, science, arts and crafts. Master Gardeners also offer seasonal youth gardening programs for youth ages 5-14 including the Mother's Day Container Workshop in May and the Wildlife Tree Ornaments Workshop in November.

<https://extension.psu.edu/programs/master-gardener/counties/cumberland/a-guide-to-the-master-gardener-program-in-cumberland-county>

