



Delaware Master Gardener Volunteer Program

by Kent County DSU Extension Educator Megan Pleasanton

The Master Gardener Volunteer Program is a nationally recognized program and can be found in all 50 states. Delaware launched its Master Gardener Volunteer Program in the Spring of 1986. Delaware Master Gardeners are vital links in an educational chain that begins with research from the University of Delaware, Delaware State University, and the horticultural industry. Delaware Cooperative Extension specialists translate this research into practical, usable methods that can be used by Delaware home gardeners.

Distributing Information

Master Gardeners play a key role in distributing this information about environmentally friendly practices for the home gardener. Kent County Master Gardeners have forty active volunteers that contributed more than 2,300 volunteer hours last year to the Delaware Cooperative Extension's home horticulture program by working on projects such as the Master Gardener Helpline, teaching or assisting with workshops, planning the plant sale and fundraising for scholarships.

Master Gardener Helpline

The Master Gardener Helpline is a vital service provided to Delaware residents. Volunteers and extension personnel answer questions on a variety of home horticulture topics. The helpline is a free service that can provide accurate identification of insect and plant specimens, and diagnosis of plant diseases to help provide solutions to your gardening issues.

Kent County Master Gardener Helpline, located at the University of Delaware Paradee Center, 69 Transportation Circle, Dover, Del., 19901.

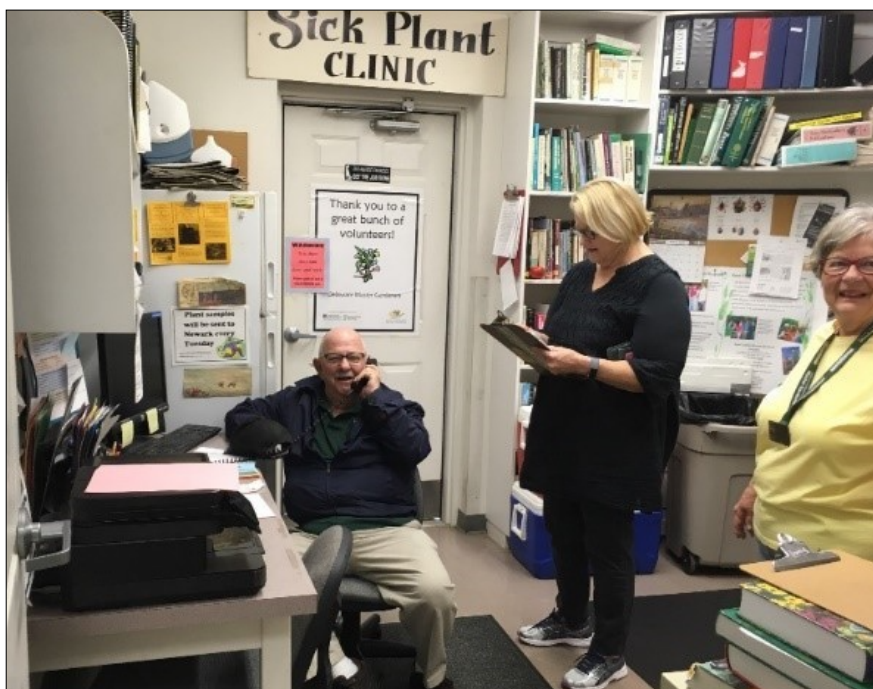
Sharing researched based information

Kent County Master Gardeners will feature articles in the Delaware State News beginning in April 2021. Each month Master Gardeners share helpful research-based information on a variety of sustainable gardening practices to assist local home gardeners. We also share information through our online workshops and events, where we promote links to websites and publications with helpful gardening tips.

Scholarship Program

The Kent County Master Gardeners offer a scholarship program for students that have been Kent County residents for at least two years prior to the application date and must be enrolled in, or have been accepted by, an accredited college or university to study plant and soil science or a horticulture-related field. The Master Gardeners raise money for scholarships during a plant sale, which is typically held on the last Saturday in April at the Delaware State University greenhouse. Deadline for applications is Friday, April 16th 2021.

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Kent County Master Gardener file photo

Kent County Master Gardeners Theron Boots, Georgia Young and Beverly Gemmill staffing the phones for the Kent County Master Gardener Helpline, located at the University of Delaware Paradee Center.

The Master Gardener Helplines are open from April through October. You can find your local helpline office by visiting our website. Our free virtual gardening workshops are extremely popular and fill up fast.

If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener volunteer, applications are accepted every other year. To find out more about the Master Gardener program in Delaware, please visit our website.

We hope you find our sustainable gardening practices useful in your own home garden. If you have any questions, send them to our email address:

kentcountymastergardeners@gmail.com.

Delaware Cooperative Extension



**Delaware State
University**

To find out more about scholarships, visit the website:

<https://cast.desu.edu/cooperative-extension/agriculture-natural-resources/delaware-master-gardeners/master-gardener-plant>

Master Gardener Helpline and Workshops

The Master Gardener Helplines are open from April through October. You can find your local helpline office by visiting our website: <https://www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/canr/cooperative-extension/environmental-stewardship/master-gardeners/garden-helpline/>

You can visit our website to register for upcoming workshops. <https://www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/canr/cooperative-extension/environmental-stewardship/master-gardeners/gardener-workshops/>

More Information

For more information about Master Gardener workshops, garden helplines, presentations, becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer, or other activities, please visit these websites.

UD Website - <https://www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/canr/cooperative-extension/environmental-stewardship/master-gardeners/>

DSU Website- <https://cast.desu.edu/cooperative-extension/agriculture-natural-resources/delaware-master-gardeners>