



**University of California  
Agriculture & Natural Resources**

**Cooperative Extension • Tuolumne County**

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### **WHO ARE MASTER GARDENERS?**

- **Master Gardeners are volunteers trained and certified by the University of California in home gardening and horticulture.**
- **Our purpose is to extend research-based, scientifically accurate information to the public about home horticulture and pest management**

### **HISTORY**

1862 - MORRILL ACT – established Land Grant Colleges: at least one institution of higher learning in every state (California’s are U.C. Berkeley, Riverside, & Davis)

1887 – HATCH ACT – established cooperation between U.S.D.A./Land Grant Colleges: agricultural research stations to provide technical, practical knowledge to farmers

1914 – SMITH-LEVER ACT – established Cooperative Extension “...development of practical applications of research knowledge and giving of instruction and practical demonstration...to persons not attending said colleges”: local governments & extension offices

1979 – California’s First Master Gardener Class  
Riverside County  
Sacramento County

1983 – Tuolumne County’s First Master Gardener Program

- Part of the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR).
- Part of the Agriculture program administered by the Farm Advisor.



## **MASTER GARDENERS ARE VOLUNTEERS**

- After completing a university-provided training program, Master Gardeners perform volunteer educational services for individuals and communities within their local area.
- Since the program's nationwide inception in 1972, over 1.4 million hours of service have been donated.
- California volunteers have contributed over 890,000 hours since the program began.

## **WHAT DO MASTER GARDENERS DO?**

- Master Gardener Program activities focus on education, not service
- Master Gardener Program encourages improved environmental quality and sustainable gardening practices.

## **MASTER GARDENER ACTIVITIES**

- Annual Garden Tour
- Home & Garden Show, Mother Lode Fair
- Horticulture-Related Scholarship
- Presentations
- Demonstrations – pruning, planting, composting
- Demonstration Garden
- School Programs
- Farmers Markets
- Soil Testing
- Home Visits

## **MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM IMPACTS**

- Healthier Plants
- Healthier Gardeners
- Healthier Environment
- Healthier Community

