

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF
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EXTENSION



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The University of Maryland Extension Home & Garden Information Center and Master Gardener Program work together to provide you with up-to-date, science-based information and answers to your yard and garden questions.



go.umd.edu/hgic



go.umd.edu/mg

Website

The Home and Garden Information Center (HGIC) develops and delivers science-based, sustainable gardening and integrated pest management education for better human and environmental health.

New resources on Climate-Resilient Gardening

- Planting Trees in Our Changing Climate
- Pollination of Vegetable Crops in a Changing Climate
- The Effects of Climate Change in Maryland
- Improving Soil Health, and more!

Find information on



Food Gardening

How to grow your own fruits, herbs, and vegetables in Maryland! Learn all about raised beds, container gardens, and recommended varieties.



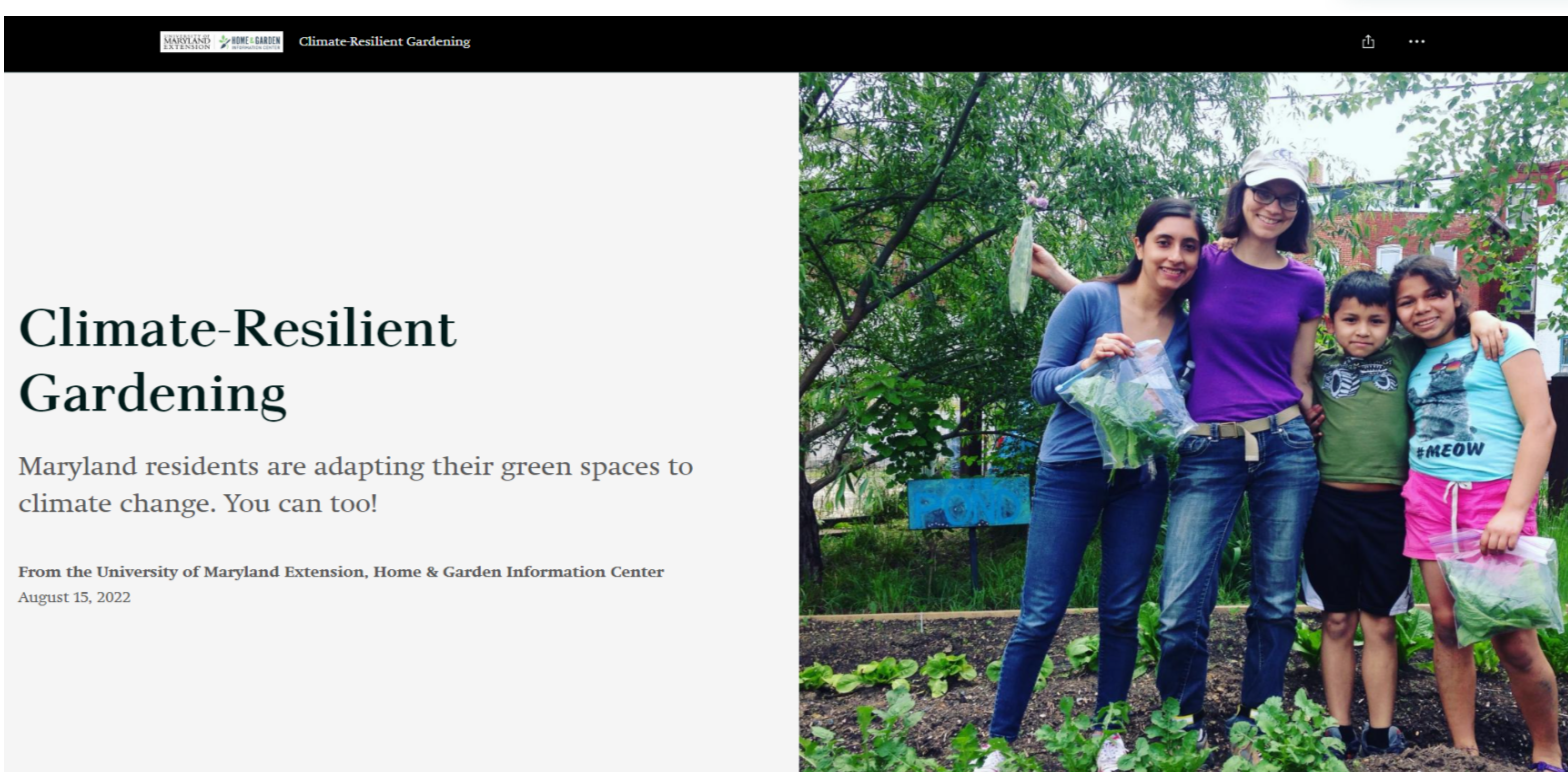
Insects

Learn about beneficial insects, insect friendly gardens and how to identify and manage insects indoors and outdoors.



Yard & Landscape

How to grow healthy plants indoors and outdoors in Maryland, how to identify and manage problems while respecting the environment.



Climate-Resilient Gardening

Maryland residents are adapting their green spaces to climate change. You can too!

From the University of Maryland Extension, Home & Garden Information Center
August 15, 2022

ArcGIS StoryMap featured examples of climate-resilient gardening from University of Maryland faculty, staff, students, and volunteers

83% of the top 500 most-viewed resources on the University of Maryland Extension website were from HGIC

I found the lawn alternatives pages on the UMD Extension site and thought they were right up our alley, and also found the climate-resilient gardening article **super relevant**.

Amanda, Smithsonian Institution

Your site has been very helpful over the years! I've been vegetable gardening on a large scale for 35 years and have **learned 3 new facts** this season alone.

Ron, Whiteford, MD

Top 5 topics viewed on the website

- Recommended Native Plants
- Vegetable Planting Calendar
- Identifying Household Insect Pests
- Spotted Lanternfly
- Weed Identification & Management



Climate-smart gardening brochure, in partnership with the Maryland Department of Agriculture



Ask Extension Online Service

Our Certified Professional Horticulturists, Extension faculty, and Master Gardeners answer questions from Maryland residents. We help people use **Integrated Pest Management** and **sustainable gardening** practices to solve problems and support a healthy environment.

Results & Impact

6,010 questions answered in 2022

- 1,288** people answered our survey
- 94%** felt **more confident** about handling a plant, pest, or gardening issue as a result of the answer they received
- 90%** said they **learned something new**
- 90%** said they are **very likely to recommend** Ask Extension
- 70%** intend to **change a practice or behavior**
- 48%** expect to **save time**
- 47%** intend to manage a weed, plant disease, or pest problem **without using pesticides**

My family has relied on the University of Maryland Extension since I was a child and you are still the go to for the best science and understanding.
- Lisa, Washington County

I'm sure I'm not the only resident of MD that has relied on/benefited from the quick/easy accessibility of Ask Extension's collective vast knowledge and connections. It has introduced us to bird and nature groups, caused us to expand our home library on environmentally friendly lawn care... and many other great pieces of valuable information.
- Bob, St. Michaels

As always, Extension has come through with very helpful expertise. Thank you.
- Charlie, Prince George's County

Your answer was filled with excellent observations and gave me a lot to consider.
- Sue, Anne Arundel County

Thanks for saving me from buying fertilizer.
- Jim, Carroll County

Blog

The **Maryland Grows Blog** provides timely articles about food gardening, soil improvement, troubleshooting plant problems, and supporting pollinators.

Top 5 New Articles in 2022

- Peat-free potting mixes
- Leaf-cutter bees
- Helping pollinators in small green spaces
- Heat-tolerant vegetable crops
- Gardening for specialized pollinators

Maryland Grows was named the **2022 Northeast Regional Winner** in Online Communications by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.



311,133

Page Views

1,047

Subscribers

86

Articles

6

Authors

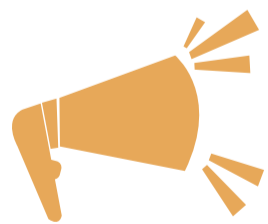
Social Media

HGIC reaches the public with how-to videos and educational content on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Follow us for Maryland gardening info!

73,977

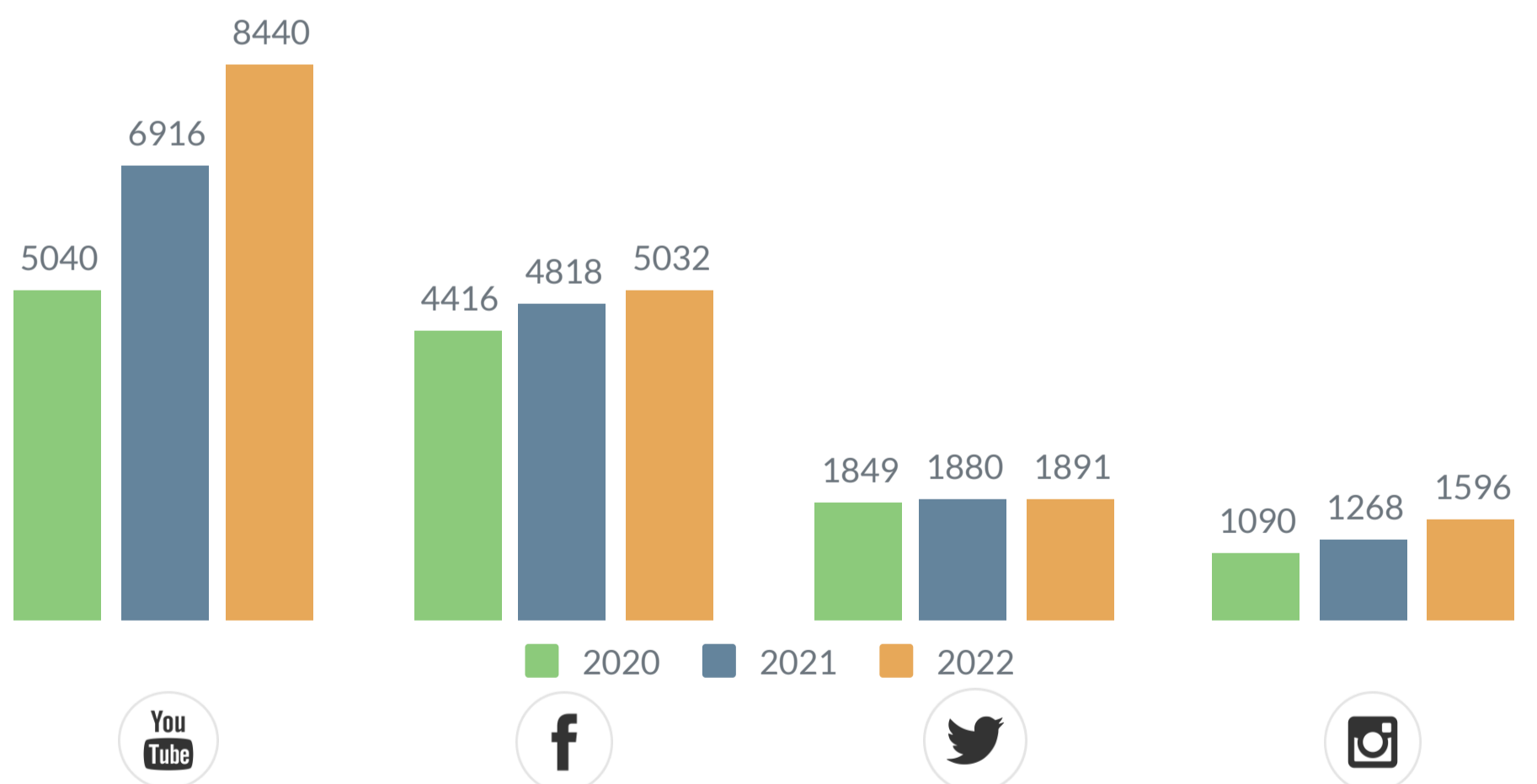
accounts reached on Instagram

5K% higher than in 2021



"Reach" is the number of people who saw any of our educational content.

Social Media Followers



Our quarterly newsletter delivers timely gardening resources, tips, and educational event notices.

9,185

subscribers

53k

deliveries

27k

opens

53%

open rate average



Top left: Baltimore County Master Gardeners get a new sign to welcome guests to their demonstration garden
Top right: Students work with Master Gardeners as part of PG County's Summer Youth Enrichment Program
Bottom left: Master Gardeners educate families during the 2022 Maryland State Fair
Bottom Right: Talbot County Master Gardeners certify a new Bay-Wise landscape

2,350

Master Gardener
Volunteers

84,183

Volunteer Hours

\$2.76 Million

Value of Volunteer
Time to Maryland

4,539

Pounds of
Produce Donated

22,633

Continuing
Education Hours

34,640

People Educated

State Continuing Education

The State Office hosted **14** continuing education events

1,734 MGs attended

Statewide Trainings

Ask A MG Plant Clinic

328 MGs attended

Grow It Eat It

128 MGs attended

The State Office and local Master Gardener programs collaborated to host Spring and Fall 2022 hybrid in-person/virtual Master Gardener Basic Trainings.

229
Trainees

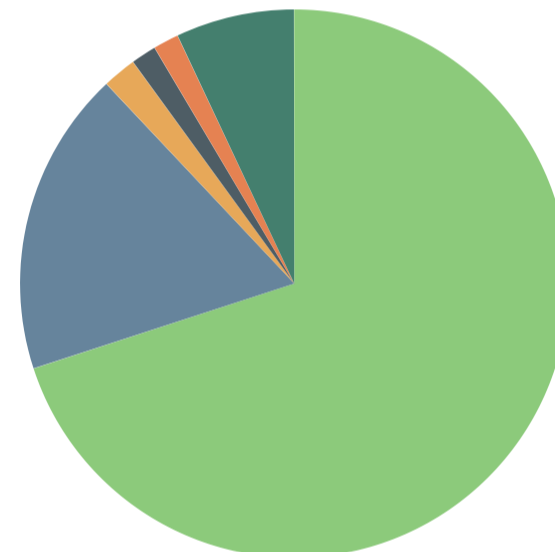


17 Counties



78%

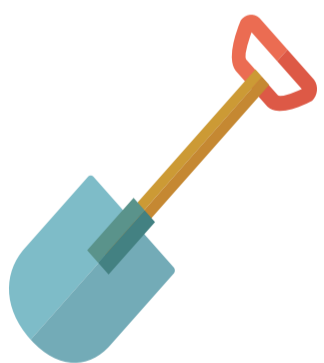
18%



- White (70%)
- Black or African-American (18%)
- Two or more races (2%)
- Asian (1.5%)
- Other (1.5%)
- Prefer to not respond (7%)

Trainees reported a higher comfort level in teaching others about **ALL** Best Management Practices surveyed including:

82% of trainees reported that they would **NOT** have been able to participate if Basic Training was held entirely in-person!



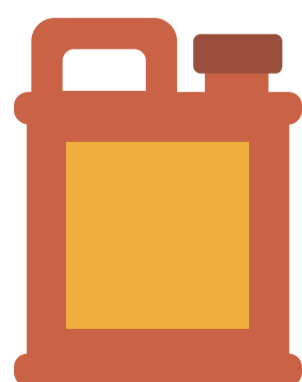
Test soil to see if it needs amendments



Incorporate a variety of plants that provide habitat & food for beneficial insects



Using alternatives to herbicides to manage weeds, such as mulching or hand-pulling



Reducing the use of fertilizers or using organic fertilizers

Praise from 2022 MG Interns

"I have learned so much, and am so excited to get out there and volunteer!"

-Master Gardener Intern, Spring 2022

"I most appreciate the knowledge and passion of all the presenters. Their presentation materials were excellent and I enjoyed every session, even those covering information I was less interested in..."

-Master Gardener Intern, Fall 2021

In 2022, the MG Basic Training was approved by MSDE for continuing professional development credits for teachers!



MASTER GARDENER Local Programs

Local Master Gardener Programs offered 330 programs and 211 Ask a Master Gardener Plant Clinics in collaboration with food banks, nature centers, schools, libraries, garden clubs, non-profits, hospitals, nursing homes, and community gardens! Check out successes and stories from a few of our 21 local programs this year.

Garrett County



Gave away 100 free "geobin" composting systems through a Keep Maryland Beautiful grant

Prince George's County



Worked with PG County DEP to give students hands-on experiences in the Summer Youth Enrichment Program at the Clinton demonstration garden

Charles County



Trained 18 pollinator ambassadors who educated 600 Charles County residents about pollinators and gave away free trees with planting & care instructions

Baltimore City



Established a new Urban Gardening education series that consisted of 12 hours of training on various urban horticulture topics

Washington County



Hosted a winter sowing online workshop with 432 live participants and 7,001 views. Installed an accessible sensory garden

Montgomery County



Hosted a Grow It Eat It Community Garden Fair at Holy Cross Hospital that included health tips and family-friendly gardening activities

Baltimore County



Led the Bay-Wise certification of the 96-acre Broadmead Senior Living Community

St. Mary's County



Provided lessons and educational activities for St. Mary's County Public Schools as part of Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week

Talbot County



Celebrated 5 years of their successful free seed library and taught native seed starting programs

Lower Eastern Shore



Started a new plant clinic location in Somerset County

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SEND YOUR GARDENING QUESTIONS

Answers to your gardening questions are only a click away! Our Certified Professional Horticulturists, Extension faculty, and Master Gardeners are ready to help.



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MASTER
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LOCAL
PROGRAMS

Join us for a class, workshop, or event near you.

MASTER GARDENER
HANDBOOK

Order the Maryland Master Gardener Handbook.



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