



The Master Gardener Program in Pierce County started in 1997. Over 145 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 44 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2016. The UWEX Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture Educator Diana Alfuth.

### Demo and Learning Garden Produces

This was the fourth year that MGVs planned, planted, maintained and assisted in harvesting the UWEX Demonstration and Learning Garden. This year's plantings included a variety of types of cherry tomatoes, an edible flower garden and a Hispanic theme garden. Over 300 pounds of produce from the garden was provided to Grow to Share hunger prevention efforts and a variety of other community organizations. The garden is the site for Junior Garden U and various other gardening workshops held through UWEX. Beginning and experienced gardeners learn from classes and demonstrations located at the garden.

### Kids learn at Junior Garden U

This was the third year that MGVs provided a half-day educational program to children between the ages of 5 to 12. The 20 children learned about insects, soils/composting and plants/propagation. An unexpected guest was a small garter snake that slithered out during the soil/compost hands-on activity. MGVs developed the format of the three training sessions and the hands-on activities that accompanied each session.

### Local Gardening Projects Enhanced Through Community Grant Program

Each year, Pierce and St. Croix County MGVs award grants of up to \$250 each to assist a variety of individuals and organizations in their work in civic and community gardens, area food projects, beautification, environmental stewardship and education. Funds from the annual plant sale are used to fund the grants. This year \$4,225 was provided to 19 separate projects.

## The Master Gardener Program in Pierce County

Pierce County UWEX Office  
412 West Kinne Street  
Ellsworth, WI 54011  
pierce.uwex.edu

### Volunteer Service in 2015

Youth Ed	178 hours
Adult Ed	444 hours
Support	2,882 hours
Total	3,505 hours
Value*	\$77,962

Since 2000: 44,002 hours at a value of over \$798,814

\* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of \$22.24 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.



### Where you can find activities by MGVs in Pierce Co.

- River Falls Farmers Market
- Pierce County Fair
- UWEX Demo and Learning Garden
- Elmwood Community Garden
- Ellsworth School Garden
- River Falls Grow to Share Garden
- Plum City Schools
- SCVMGA Monthly Educational Sessions







The Master Gardener Program in St. Croix County started in 1997. Over 635 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 95 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2016. The UWEX Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture Educator Diana Alfuth.

### Community Garden Still Growing

The community garden in New Richmond began in 2000 and still goes strong with a core group of MGVs. All of the produce produced in the large garden is donated to hunger prevention efforts. Local food pantries, senior centers, and other locations depend on the wide variety of high quality produce donated from the garden. Over 2000 pounds of produce were harvested and donated this year, a reduction in past years due to infestation of late blight and other fungal diseases caused by wet growing conditions.

### Annual Plant Sale Proceeds Redistributed

The St. Croix Valley Master Gardener Association (of MGVs in Pierce and St. Croix Counties) hosts a large plant sale at the historic Octagon House each June featuring plants divided out of members' gardens or started by seed. The sale has developed a following of repeat customers and proceeds average over \$4,000 each year. This money is in turn distributed through a community grant program where the Association gives money for a wide variety of garden-related projects throughout Pierce and St. Croix Counties.

### Participants Learn at Garden U

Each year in March the MGVs in St. Croix and Pierce Counties host a day-long educational program for the public called "Garden U". Tapping into a wide variety of experts, including those from Wisconsin and Minnesota universities, this workshop draws 150+ participants each year to provide them with high-quality, timely information to help them be successful in their gardening efforts. Topics each year are determined by community surveys and emerging topics.

## The Master Gardener Program in St. Croix County

St. Croix County UWEX Office  
1960 8th Avenue, Suite 140  
Baldwin, WI 54002  
stcroix.uwex.edu

### Volunteer Service in 2015

Youth Ed	178 hours
Adult Ed	444 hours
Support	2,882 hours
Total	3,505 hours
Value*	\$77,962

Since 2000: 44,002 hours at a value of over \$798,814

\* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of \$22.24 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.



### Where you can find activities by MGVs in St. Croix Co.

- Hudson Farmers Market
- St. Croix County Fair
- Baldwin Community Garden
- New Richmond Community Garden
- St. Joseph Town Hall
- Houlton School Garden
- St. Patrick School Garden
- Hudson Rain Gardens and Parks

