

Signature Program Action Plan

Team	Horticulture and Forestry
Program Title	Home Horticulture – Master Gardener Program
Program Coordinator(s)	Dr. Esther McGinnis
Situation	North Dakota Extension Offices are facing increased demand for horticultural knowledge and programming
Objective(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage volunteerism in the community and in county offices to assist with horticulture and forestry related questions 2. Train volunteers to be leaders in their communities and to promote sustainable gardening and forestry practices 3. Train new Extension agents in horticulture and forestry 4. Increase the amount of horticultural and forestry programming in the state
Extension response (planned activities – meetings/workshops, bulletins, field days, etc.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct Master Gardener core course classroom and online training every fall semester 2. Encourage new Extension agents to take the course 3. Provide opportunities for initiation to horticultural knowledge as well as advanced knowledge through NDSU Extension’s “Gardening Saturdays” 4. Institute a recertification program for Master Gardeners on an annual basis once the initial 48 hours of volunteer work is satisfied 5. Require counties to report their volunteer and recertification hours on an annual basis to the state program 6. Institute an annual Master Gardener conference 7. Offer Second Tier Master Gardener Certification for those individuals completing an additional 15 hours of approved classroom training

Evaluation plan/tool	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Document hours of service from Master Gardener volunteers 2. Quantify the monetary value of hours of service 3. Tally the number of Extension agents that complete training 4. Tally the number of new participants
Anticipated impacts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greater volunteerism throughout the state of North Dakota 2. More “grass roots” support for NDSU Extension Horticulture/Forestry Programs 3. Implementation of sustainable gardening methods 4. More local food production from back yard gardening efforts by Master Gardeners 5. Greater amounts of produce donated to local food pantries 6. Collaboration with the Junior Master Gardener Program 7. Extension agents better trained in horticulture and forestry