



PURDUE EXTENSION: **GROWING FOOD, GROWING COMMUNITIES**

Purdue Extension partners with local communities to both grow and supply nutritious food and develop relationships that ultimately strengthen communities. From urban gardening in Indianapolis to assisting young farmers in Crothersville, Ind., and everywhere in between, we provide research-based education and tools to help Indiana residents grow food and fight food insecurity.

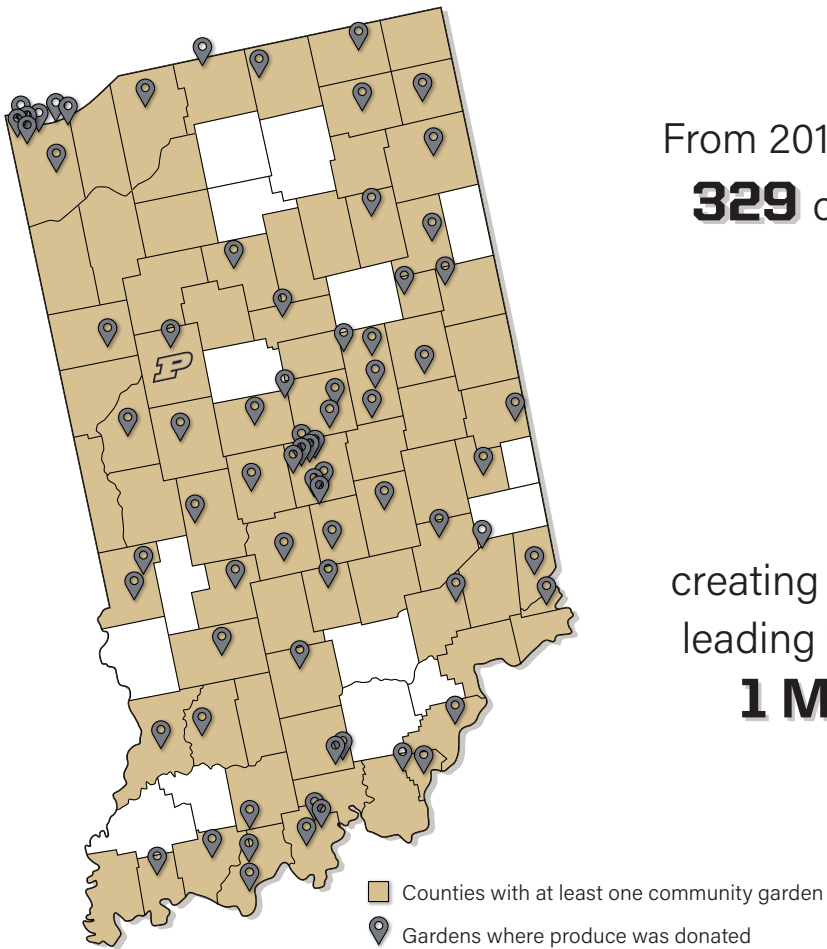
PURDUE EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

- Purdue Extension's Master Gardener Program trains gardening enthusiasts as volunteers to share home-horticulture education across Indiana's communities.
- In 2019, nearly 3,000 active Purdue Extension Master Gardener volunteers clocked over 175,000 volunteer hours – worth more than \$4 million to Indiana's economy.
- Master Gardeners also donated 73,052 pounds of produce in 2019 from their educational demonstration gardens to local food banks — helping fight food insecurity.

GROWING TOGETHER PROJECT

- The Growing Together Project increases access to fruits and vegetables in food pantries by building and maintaining community donation gardens.
- This collaborative project comprising six Midwest states is facilitated in Indiana by Purdue Extension's Nutrition Education Program (SNAP-Ed) and Master Gardener Program. During the 2020 growing season, 14 Indiana counties participated in a total of 21 gardens.
- Nearly 7,200 pounds of produce was grown, donated and distributed to 33 organizations — increasing access to fresh produce for 10,000 Indiana residents.

PURDUE EXTENSION'S GARDEN IMPACT



From 2019-2020, Extension assisted with **329** community gardens statewide:

creating **356** unique partnerships and leading to the production of more than **1 MILLION** servings of food.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Purdue Extension's Master Gardener Program hosted 495 students virtually in its first statewide training to prepare new volunteers to assist residents in their communities.
- More than 28,000 Facebook, Twitter and YouTube viewers tuned into Tips for First Time Gardeners (youtu.be/EeXN2ZxWIPc), a video series featuring practical vegetable gardening tips from Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension's Consumer Horticulture Specialist.

COMMUNITY GARDEN SUCCESS STORIES

Fort Wayne

Johnnie Mae Garden
youtu.be/cXVeGYHf6jo

Indianapolis

HealthNet Community Garden
puext.in/onegarden

Visit us at extension.purdue.edu for more information!