

PURDUE EXTENSION

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM



Purdue Extension Master Gardener (EMG) - Garden Bot

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Purdue EMG Garden Bot

- Purpose – to provide an effective starting point for volunteers to answer clientele home gardening questions.
- Information source - Purdue EMG Manual
 - Works better with one reliable source of information but we're looking to add more sources.
- Access - approved Purdue EMG volunteers only.
 - Special webpage with a password provided.
- Evaluation: Survey link given to volunteers for evaluation of the Garden Bot.



Purdue EMG Manual Content

- Primary reference for all EMG volunteers.
- Open Book Final Exam for the initial basic training is based on the manual.



- Covers these required topics:
 - Plant Science
 - Soils and Plant Nutrition
 - Pesticide Safety and Alternatives
 - Plant Disease Diagnosis
 - Weed ID and Control
 - Insect ID and Control
 - Invasive Species
 - Woody Ornamentals
 - Herbaceous Ornamentals
 - Lawn Care
 - Vegetable Gardening

Limitations and Tips

- Avoiding incorrect information given to volunteers – concern about liability
- Must be sure information source(s) are updated
- Volunteer must understand the tool use
 - Instructions given on webpage.
 - Volunteers need to understand that answers are not comprehensive. More research maybe needed or they need to refer it to Coordinator
- Takes several iterations of the bot to refine it.
- Transparency and citation is needed so that volunteers know where to refer clientele or check answers given by the bot.
- Need to be sure the bot always make reference to Purdue Extension staff as a source for more detailed information.

Let's Try it out!



Purdue Extension Master Gardener



Hi! What gardening tips or information are you seeking today?

[Garden Bot Webpage](#)