



College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

# 2012 Statewide Grow -Together



UNIVERSITY *of* HAWAII  
MASTER GARDENER  
College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources

Friday, September 14, 2012 UH Mānoa campus, East West Center



**How has participating in  
the UH Master Gardener  
Program contributed to  
sustainability  
efforts on your island?**



**I know where to look for information to help me grow my own food.** UH MGs interact with each other and our community at farmers markets and other events, which **brings agricultural awareness into the public conversation.** MGs have the opportunity to spread the messages of sustainability, including **increased local food production/import substitutions/food security** by acting from a personal standpoint and sharing messages with our communities.



Many people are now starting to grow some of their own food and our Master Gardening program is helping them take those first few steps. We help people **improve their soils** by explaining composting and vermiculture, and help those who need to **control pests** by building homemade fly traps and **educating them on how to use chemical insecticides safely.**





Our MGs work with children in pre-school and elementary school gardens. Gardening helps children explore and learn that plants grow, not just come from a can at the supermarket. It also **help the children learn to eat better foods**, as they are more likely to taste something they grew themselves - and **it gives them great pride! People like fresh produce, it helps them stay healthy, and growing it themselves gives them great pride and satisfaction**, whether its a large garden or a flower pot of lettuce. **It makes them happy!**





They love to take home that tomato plant they grew from a seed, and grow it in their yard, introducing their parents to simple gardening.





Master Gardeners can, and do, play a valuable role by being a **liaison between the resource that is CTAHR/Cooperative Extension, and the general public.** We are involved in **providing research based information to home gardeners** via the help desk, UH Ask an Expert, and during festivals and fairs. **We can also be a sustainability spokesperson to our individual contacts, personal friends and colleagues.** Many more people are **requesting information and assistance in growing their own food, and we want them to be successful.**





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Through the MG program I was made aware of a **seed saving workshop**. **Saving genetic variability is part of sustainability**. We are in a network of friends that can grow different crops than we can at our elevation. **We share vegetables and seeds so we as a group can be more productive.**

We should also be **supporting our local farmers whenever possible to keep commercial agriculture alive and viable in our island community.**





Those of us that have gone through the Master Gardener program can better appreciate the diversity that exists not only on different parts of our island, with many different micro-climates and conditions to grow plants, but also the diversity that exists island to island. We are a unique state geographically, and need to be supportive of each other. We can express those thoughts in a positive way from our knowledge base.





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The **general public** has been **gaining awareness** of our program through our many educating events. People seem to be asking more pertinent questions and have defined goals as to their reasons, **and interest in sustainability through growing and producing food.**



**There is a rapidly growing interest in gardening in general. People seem to be coming aware of our shared existence and limited space available and I believe with a continuous stream of information provided to the general public, the **Master Gardeners** have an opportunity to steer our community into a higher level of self-reliance.**





**Cooperating with schools and communities to grow our own food is economically advantageous and physiologically optimal on a personal, as well as group, level.**





One aspect that I really enjoy is helping to solve peoples gardening problems. I think that **this promotes sustainability because it keeps people gardening,** and through our efforts to educate the public on integrative pest management, I believe that **we are helping to prevent overuse or incorrect use of pesticides that can have a negative impact on other living systems.**



Since becoming a MG, **my knowledge base of agriculture and soil management has increased enormously. With this knowledge, I now have a basis for reaching out to others.** My participation at the Kalama School garden was rewarding, while **bringing awareness to children about gardening and food production.** I also enjoy bringing awareness to the public as a fruit fly eradication class instructor.







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Skills and knowledge learned and shared through MG program help me and my friends and family grow food. **For every pound of produce we grow, that's a pound not being shipped here** using petroleum products, damaging our oceans and money is being kept here rather than sent elsewhere. **This helps our local economy reinvest in itself and our infrastructures.**





**Participating in the M.G program has been such a learning experience. Learning how to share so much knowledge. Our people are so passionate about reaching out to the community** as seen in our community outreach booths & school gardening programs, our new internet sites **to give the community more accessibility to our help** as well as the help desk becoming more and more popular because of the exposure at various functions. The more we get the community involved & curious the better.





**Sustainability includes becoming more food self-sufficient and producing food which deeply nourishes us, thereby sustaining our health. I am excited to help people grow more and better quality foods. I help gardeners and farmers in this community, across the Big Island, state-wide, and even on the mainland to grow healthier crops and more nutritious food.**





Personally, I use the knowledge I've learned through the MG program to organically grow my fruits and vegetables and to enrich the soil with compost, beneficial entities, and to attract beneficial insects for pollination. On a community level, and through my current job at a hospital and through volunteer opportunities, I am able to provide UH garden related information, encourage home garden enthusiasts, and promote organic practices. Regionally, I believe that the MG program is continually increasing involvement in public venues that will promote interest in self-sustaining our islands now and in the future.







Helping our aina and kamaaina practice sustainable, organic and natural gardening and agricultural practices is a great joy. Since we are a very rural environment, we have home gardeners and small farmers with all kinds of interesting problems and questions. **Providing science-based solutions that are also good for our island in the long range is very rewarding.**