



Enhancing quality of life through garden-based learning.



Master Gardener Volunteer Program of New York State January 2007 - December 2007

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Thank you to the volunteers and Volunteer Program Administrators of Cornell Cooperative Extension county offices for tracking and submitting the following volunteer.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

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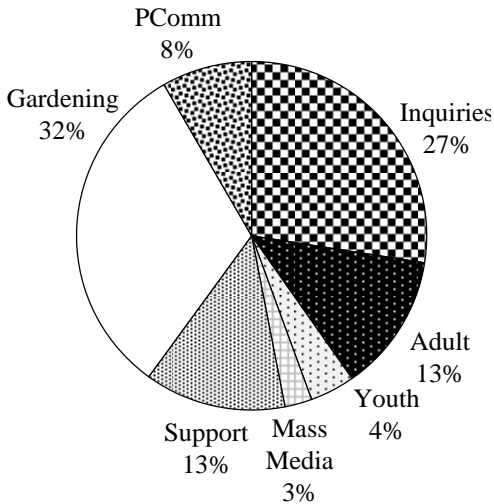
**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

State Summary

In 2007, over **2,000 active Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV)** spent more than **110,000 hours** working to bring gardening success to New York State citizens and communities. That volunteer time is equal to **62 FTEs** (full time equivalents) and is estimated to be worth nearly **\$2 million** to the outreach effort of Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE).

Through their service MGV helped CCE make more than **140,000 direct citizen contacts**. That averages out to 71 direct citizen contacts per MGV.

What work did Master Gardener Volunteers do in our NYS communities in 2007?

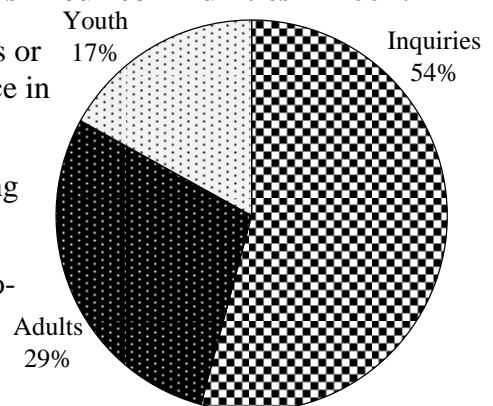


- 32% of MGJV hours are spent gardening to create and maintain educational demonstration gardens or public green spaces.
- 27% of MGJV hours are spent researching and answering inquiries or advising community members via phone, email or face to face in the office or in public settings.
- 13% of MGJV hours are spent preparing and leading or co-leading educational garden-related programs targeted at adults; including talks given through a speaker's bureau as well as workshops, tours or presentations at events like a garden show or fair.
- 13% of MGJV hours are spent supporting CCE community horticulture programming by assisting with the organization and implementation of educational garden-related programs for the community or other MGJV; including meeting with others to plan educational activities or helping with office work.

- 8% of MGJV hours are spent in CCE public communication by assisting with community activities such as county fair, garden events, fundraisers (e.g. plant sales) and PR events.
- 4% of MGJV hours are spent preparing and leading or co-leading educational garden-related programs targeted at children, youth or families; including programming in schools or informal settings like 4-H Youth Development programs (e.g. Junior Master Gardener clubs) or those associated with a larger event such as a fair or family day events.
- 3% of MGJV hours are spent researching, preparing and providing educational gardening material via TV, radio, newspaper or other mass media.

Where did Master Gardener Volunteers directly reach citizens in our communities in 2007?

- 54 % of MGJV direct contacts occur while answering inquiries or advising community members via phone, email, or face to face in the office or at public events or settings.
- 29% of MGJV direct contacts occur while leading or co-leading educational garden-related programs targeted at adults.
- 17% of MGJV direct contacts occur during while leading or co-leading programs targeted at children, youth or families.



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Master Gardener Volunteer Contribution in NYS Counties

County (most - least populated)	New MGV	Active MGV	Service Hours	Contacts	Hrs/ MGV	Contacts/ MGV	FTEs	Value of MGV
Suffolk	37	195	12,300	2,701	63	14	6.7	\$218,694
Nassau	32	136	5,924	14,380	44	106	3.2	\$105,329
Westchester	0	91	8,598	3,470	94	38	4.7	\$152,872
Erie	0	67	6,200	6,550	93	98	3.4	\$110,236
Monroe	31	164	8,209	7,566	50	46	4.5	\$145,956
Orange	0	44	4,944	5,020	112	114	2.7	\$87,904
Albany	0	72	5,113	7,743	71	108	2.8	\$90,909
Rockland	29	63	3,249	3,885	52	62	1.8	\$57,767
Dutchess	0	60	5,331	2,879	89	48	2.9	\$94,785
Oneida	27	67	2,462	2,700	37	40	1.3	\$43,774
Saratoga	24	193	8,090	21,145	42	110	4.4	\$143,840
Niagara	0	29	681	1,445	23	50	0.4	\$12,108
Broome	15	67	5,870	2,560	88	38	3.2	\$104,369
Ulster	16	50	1,737	6,035	35	121	1.0	\$30,884
Rensselaer	0	67	3,155	4,700	47	70	1.7	\$56,096
Schenectady	0	35	1,010	4,700	29	134	0.6	\$17,958
Allegany/Cattaraugus	0	16	1,150	2,464	72	154	0.6	\$20,447
Oswego	2	9	208	438	23	49	0.1	\$3,698
Jefferson	0	8	694	733	87	92	0.4	\$12,339
St. Lawrence	0	3	54	55	18	18	0.0	\$960
Ontario	19	50	2,248	6,914	45	138	1.2	\$39,969
Fulton/Montgomery	1	12	1,378	3,209	115	267	0.8	\$24,501
Tompkins	0	32	3,030	2,141	95	67	1.7	\$53,873
Putnam	0	36	971	3,540	27	98	0.5	\$17,264
Steuben	5	13	669	3,010	51	232	0.4	\$11,895
Wayne	8	27	1,424	2,321	53	86	0.8	\$25,319
Chemung	0	29	1,956	1,536	67	53	1.1	\$34,778
Clinton	0	30	1,924	1,947	64	65	1.1	\$34,209
Cayuga	9	14	316	505	23	36	0.2	\$5,618
Sullivan	4	8	333	906	42	113	0.2	\$5,921
Warren	0	18	915	375	51	21	0.5	\$16,269
Livingston	1	9	561	421	62	47	0.3	\$9,975
Washington	0	37	1,071	1,170	29	32	0.6	\$19,042
Herkimer	0	1	89	107	89	107	0.0	\$1,582
Otsego	0	15	1,150	1,400	77	93	0.6	\$20,447
Columbia	0	17	1,210	717	71	42	0.7	\$21,514
Genesee	5	64	1,105	1,674	17	26	0.6	\$19,647
Chenango	2	17	616	307	36	18	0.3	\$10,952
Tioga	0	18	1,236	886	69	49	0.7	\$21,976
Greene	0	11	186	397	17	36	0.1	\$3,307
Orleans	3	20	682	2,012	34	101	0.4	\$12,126
Wyoming	6	18	273	325	15	18	0.1	\$4,854
Essex	0	27	1,535	3,852	57	143	0.8	\$27,292
Seneca	2	19	579	605	30	32	0.3	\$10,295
Schoharie	0	10	675	715	68	72	0.4	\$12,002
Yates	0	18	1,119	381	62	21	0.6	\$19,896
All Counties with MGV	278	2,006	112,230	142,542	56	71	62	\$1.9 million

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
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State Summary Notes

The Master Gardener Volunteer contribution table includes 46 county units that support a program. Counties are grouped in these three size categories based on Annual Estimates of the Population for Counties of New York: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2007. Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau:
Most Populated Counties have >500,000 people
Medium Populated Counties have >102,000 <500,000 people
Least Populated Counties have <102,000 people

Contacts include county individuals, with whom Master Gardener Volunteers have directly advised via phone, mail, email, diagnostic clinics or workshops. It does not include all the additional citizens reached via mass media, community events and demonstration or beautification gardens.

FTE means Full Time Equivalent. 1.0 FTE works 228 eight-hour days per year for a total of 1824 hrs of work per year.

The Value of Master Gardener Volunteers and other volunteers was calculated by multiplying hours of service by \$17.78. This hourly value of volunteer service was determined by reviewing the CCE Program Family Job Profiles, selecting the Extension Program Educator II position as the one most equivalent to the Master Gardener Volunteer role and other volunteer positions within the Community Horticulture program area, determining the average minimum hourly earnings paid for this position and adding a fringe benefit package of 33% to get a total compensation package. For additional details contact LJB7@cornell.edu.

Volunteers are keeping up to date.

The total number of hours all active volunteers spent advancing their Master Gardeners Volunteer work through participating in professional development, trainings or educational meetings was about **26,000 hours in 2007**. That averages out to approximately **13 hours per** volunteer.

Additional Community Horticulture spent over **1,000 hours in 2007** advancing their volunteer work advance education opportunities. That is approximately **7 hours per** volunteer.

Our volunteers stay connected to CCE.

In addition to our 2,006 active Master Gardener Volunteers we have an additional **372** Emeritus Master Gardener Volunteers. Emeritus MGV have made significant contributions in to the program in the past but were unable to offer their time this year beyond attending educational or social activities.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
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County Summaries Notes

Individual County's Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity and contacts are displayed on the following pie charts in the order they are listed in the table on page 4.

A program highlight is included if submitted by the county.

Key to Pie Chart Categories

Inquiries: Time spent researching and answering inquiries or advising community members via phone, email or face to face in the office or at public events or settings; including diagnostic clinics and time testing soil or answering home garden-related questions at a table or booth at fair, farmer's market, library, garden center, any public event.

Adults: Time spent preparing and leading or co-leading an educational garden-related program targeted at adults; including talks given through a speaker's bureau to local community groups as well as individual workshops/presentations/tours or those associated with larger community events such as a garden show or fair.

Youth: Time spent preparing and leading or co-leading an educational garden-related program targeted at children, youth or families; including programming in schools or informal settings like 4-H Youth Development (e.g. Junior Master Gardener clubs) or those associated with a larger event such as a fair or family day events.

Mass Media: Time spent researching, preparing and providing educational gardening material via TV, radio, newspaper or other mass media.

Support: Time spent assisting with the organization and implementation of educational garden-related programs for the community in general or other Master Gardener Volunteers; including meeting with others to plan educational activities, registering program participants, helping with office work such (e.g. entering data for MGV report).

Gardening: Time spent creating and maintaining educational demonstration gardens or community public green spaces; including caring for natural areas, street tree care and community beautification projects.

PC: Public Communication. Time spent assisting with community activities associated with county fair, garden events, fundraisers (e.g. plant sales) and other public relations events. Time spent advising face to face at these events is recorded under responding to inquiries and time leading specific programs at these events is recorded under adults or youth.

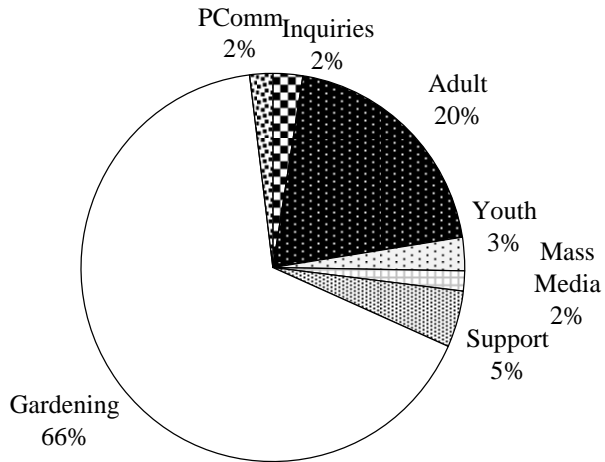
Direct contacts include county individuals, with whom Master Gardener Volunteers have directly advised via their activity in these three areas: Inquiries, Adults and Youth. See full descriptions of these activities above. Direct contacts are not tracked for mass media, support, gardening or PR categories.

Most Populated Counties Individual Summary and Program Highlight

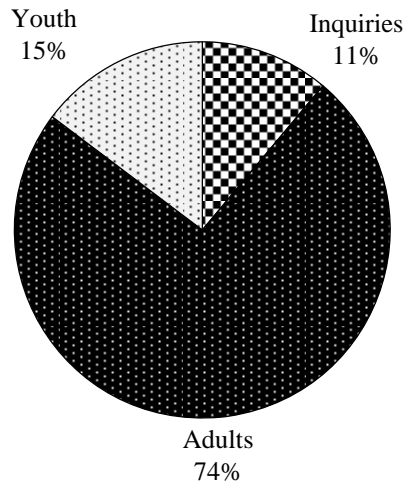
Most populated (> 500,000 residents)

Suffolk County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts

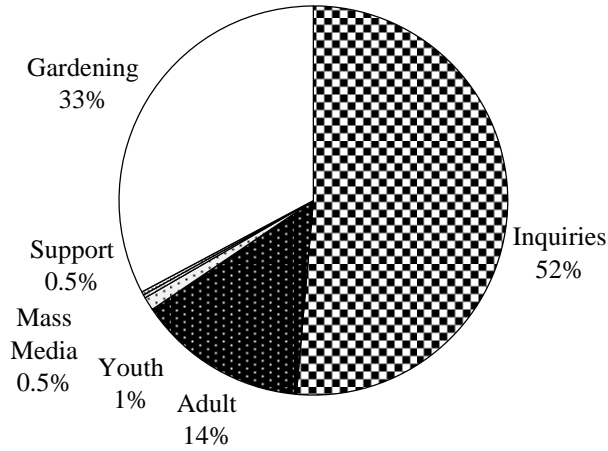


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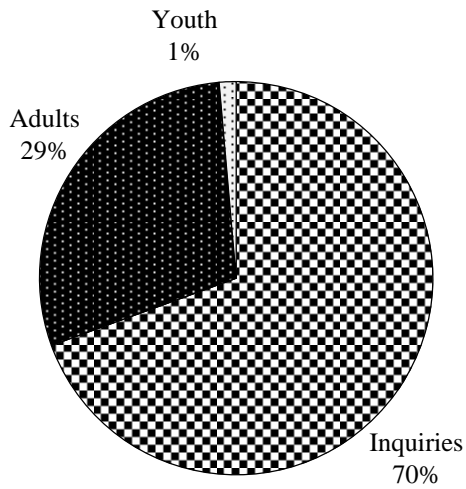
Most populated (> 500,000 residents)

Nassau County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts

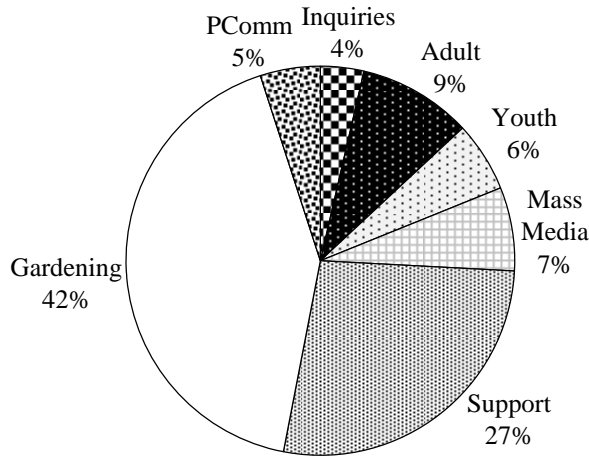


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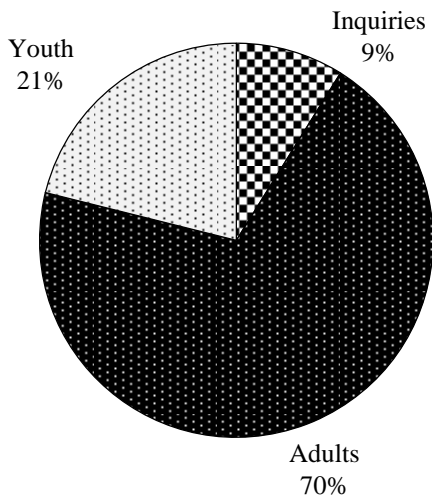
Most populated (> 500,000 residents)

Westchester County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

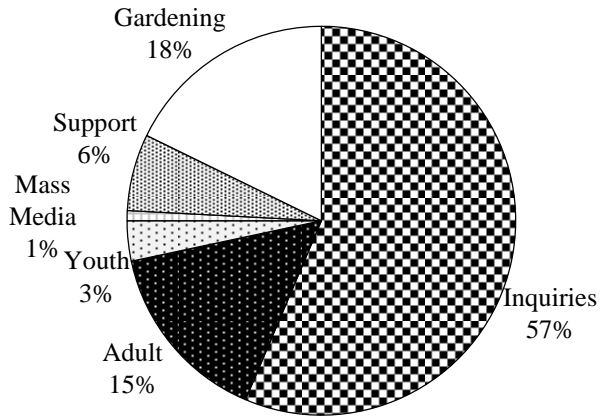
Many of Westchester County Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Master Gardener Volunteers are hands-on gardeners who greatly enjoy the fulfillment of working with their fellow volunteers to care for two demonstration/teaching gardens in Hartsdale and Yorktown Heights. The volunteers prepared the beds, planted vegetables, fruits (grapes, strawberries), perennials, annuals, herbs; they tended the beds throughout the growing season and composted the garden materials; they created signage for each of the beds (approx 30 signs); they also launched a new children/family garden with raised beds. The gardens have caught the attention of the public and elected county official to help raise awareness of the local CCE office. Staff and volunteers knew they had made it big when the Hartsdale Garden was on the annual Girl Scouts Garden Tour in 2007. This major regional event attracted 700 visitors in one day.

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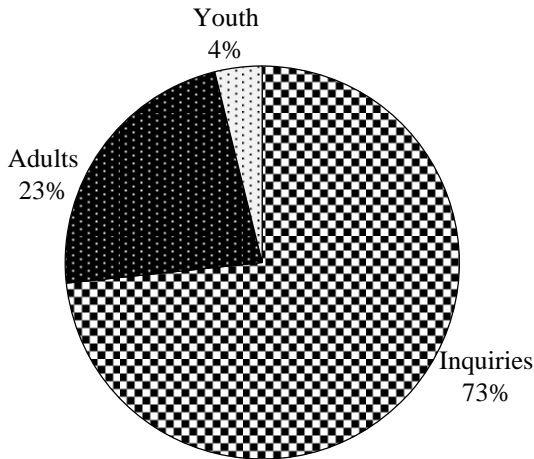
Most populated (> 500,000 residents)

Erie County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

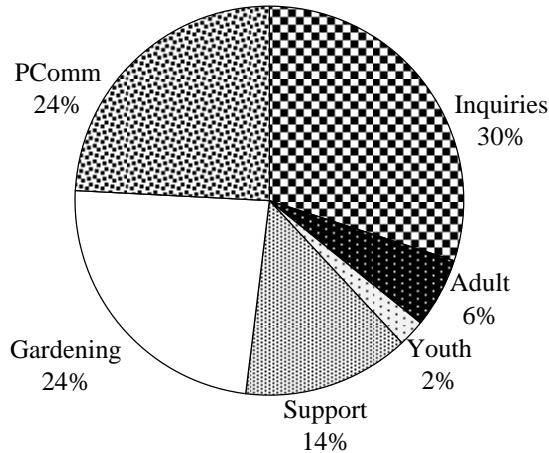
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County receives thousands of phone calls on their Garden Hotline from the public. With each inquiry they strive to provide citizens with a diagnosis and solution that is focused on IPM (Integrated Pest Management) versus a diagnosis that jumps directly to chemical control. Erie County Master Gardener Volunteers staff this Garden Hotline Monday to Thursday from 9 to 12 and rely on Cornell factsheets and the other research-based Internet resources to help callers representing all socio-economic backgrounds and ages solve problems. Reports of callers' genuine concern about how they can protect the environment offer evidence that CCE of Erie County is improving the adoption of IPM practice through this one on one Garden Hotline service.

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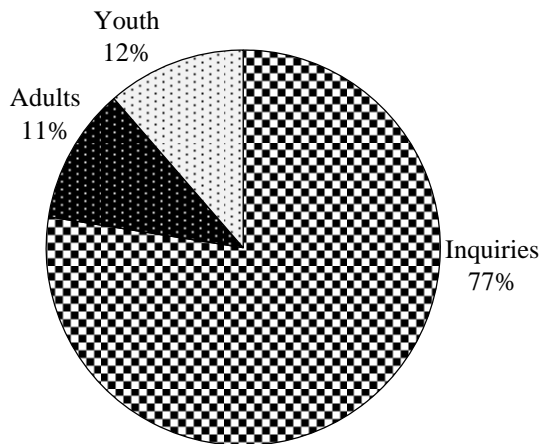
Most populated (> 500,000 residents)

Monroe County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

In Monroe County Durand Eastman Park Arboretum is a green space asset. Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Master Garden Volunteers (MGV) were encouraged to hear similar words from leading woody plant expert Michael Dirr on his visit there. So when this county park faced a decreasing budget they stepped up to offer their skills, enthusiasm and expertise. With an education mission in mind the Monroe County CCE MGV set a goal to raise the awareness among county residents about the wonderful collection of woody plant specimens in the Durand Eastman Park Arboretum. They approach this by spearheading workdays to address pruning and clean-up needs as well as by leading tours through the park for garden clubs, continuing education classes, scout troops, 4H clubs and hiking clubs. The tours focused on the value of biodiversity and highlighted some unusual trees that will grow in the area. Thank you notes from the participating citizen groups indicated the tours were well received and offer evidence that MGV were indeed raising the awareness among county residents.

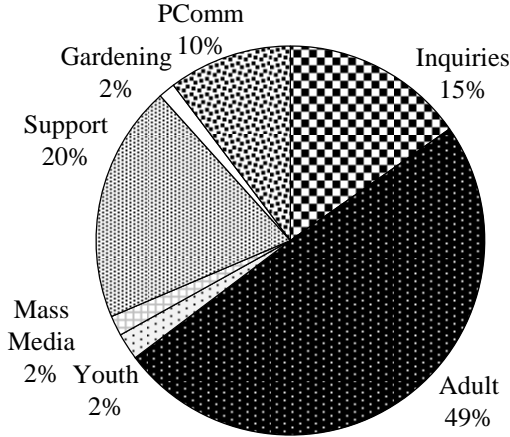
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Medium Populated Counties Individual Summary and Program Highlight

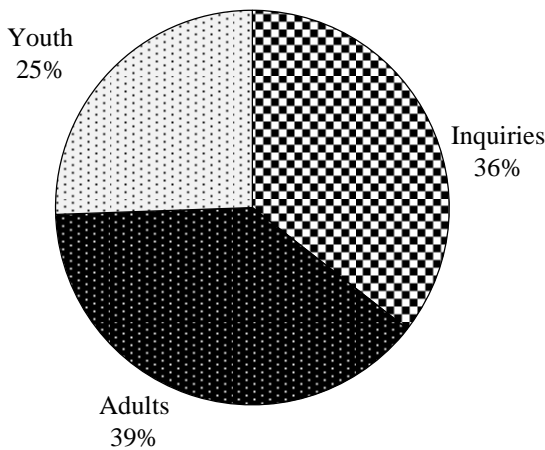
Medium Populated (>102,000 <500,000 residents)

Orange County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

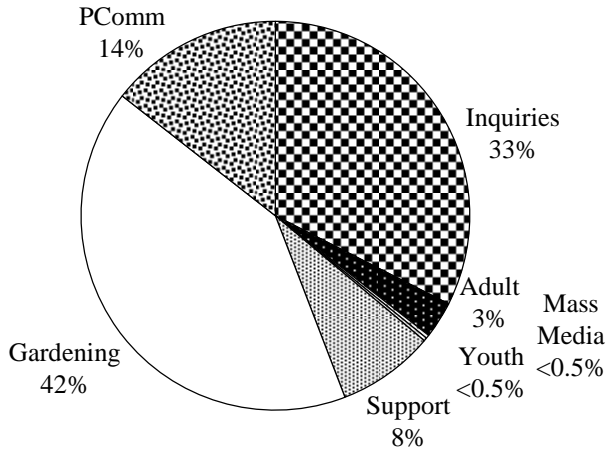
Orange County Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) receives a large volume of gardening questions. Fortunately, they have a Garden Helpline service to meet this public demand and they want residents to know they are the place to call to get the accurate answers to their gardening questions. To increased public awareness of the service in the community they promote the Garden Helpline at all Orange County CCE events/programs by handing out refrigerator magnets displaying the helpline contact information. They also promote this service in a weekly Garden Column in the local newspaper to reach their population interested in gardening. Promotion seems to have helped raise awareness as they have had a steady increase in the number of calls received. Many callers state that they are happy to have this service and it has helped them to make proper choices as they relate to pesticides, plant choices and general gardening practices.

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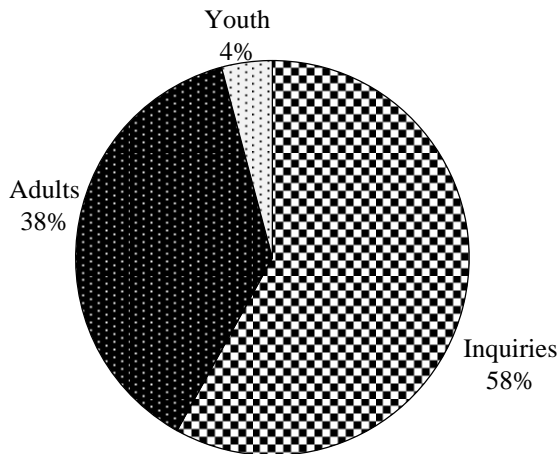
Medium Populated (>102,000 <500,000 residents)

Albany County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

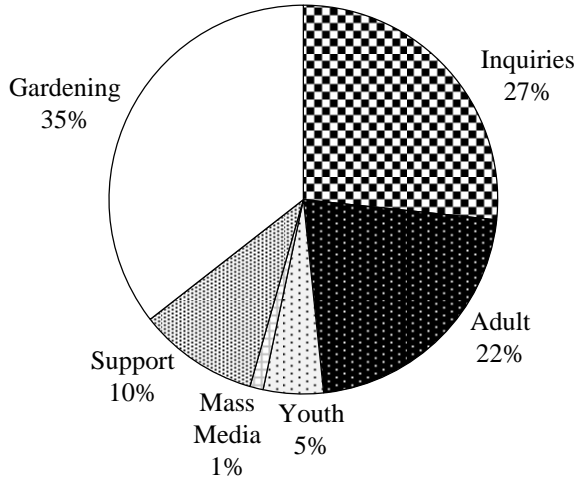
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County and its Master Gardener Volunteers recognized that 30 years is a significant amount of time to have a volunteer program thrive and grow from 5 to over 80 participants. Consequently, a summer picnic celebration was planned in 2007 to mark the 30th year of Master Gardener Volunteers assisting in consumer horticulture. The celebration focused on promoting the program, marketing CCE and thanking the volunteers past and present. Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) were at the heart of the planning process, arranging for tents, food, speaker, publicity, and a historic perspective on the past with pictures of projects done over the years. MGV were also key leaders on event day where the more than 100 attendees included current and former volunteers and program coordinators as well as local political officials. All agreed that the celebrations did much to highlight the impacts MGV have had in their communities. Staff and volunteers remarked that they continually learn from each other and very much enjoy working together in all our horticultural projects. One MGV put together an album of the 30th year that showcased the celebration.

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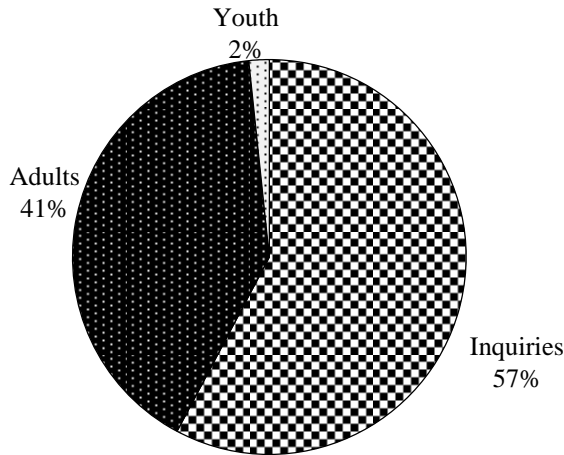
Medium Populated (>102,000 <500,000 residents)

Rockland County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

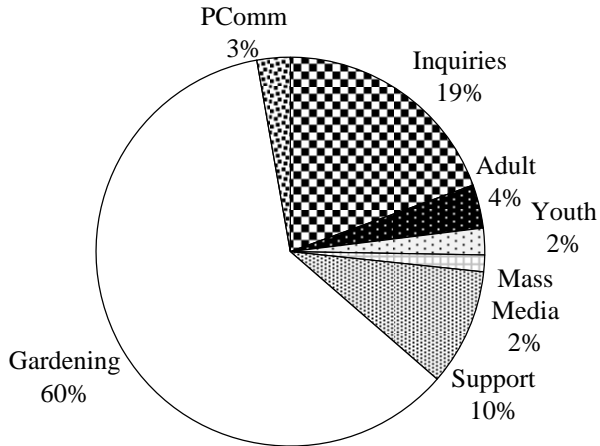
The Master Gardener Volunteer program in CCE of Rockland County wants homeowners to be aware that practicing composting will save them money on costly fertilizers and pesticides, while at the same time creating a healthy environment, yard and garden. Giving away about 350 Earth Machine Compost bins to county residents who attended compost classes held at Farmer's Markets, libraries and at the CCE office was a highlight of their initiative to get the message out about the need to reduce household waste and use fewer chemicals in the yard by recycling kitchen and yard waste. Class participants remarked that they found the information they received to be personally useful and they will pass it onto a friend or neighbor. The composting initiative expands in 2008 to teach composting practices to students in elementary through high school and includes the distribution of 150 bins to schools, scout troops and other youth groups.

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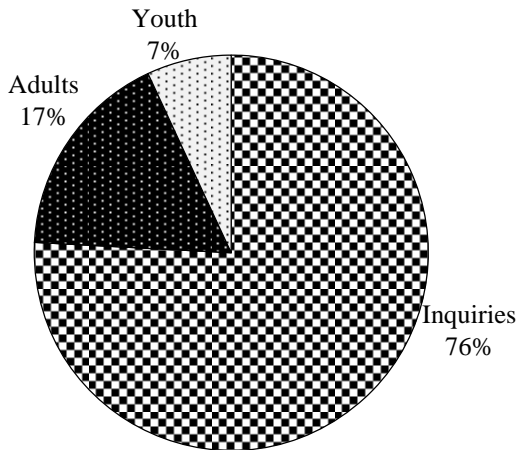
Medium Populated (>102,000 <500,000 residents)

Dutchess County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts

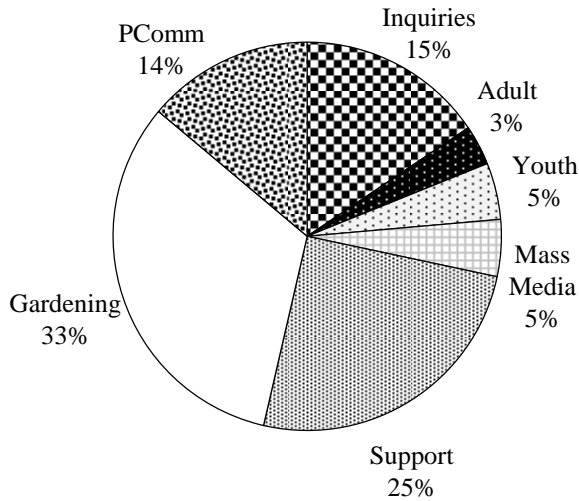


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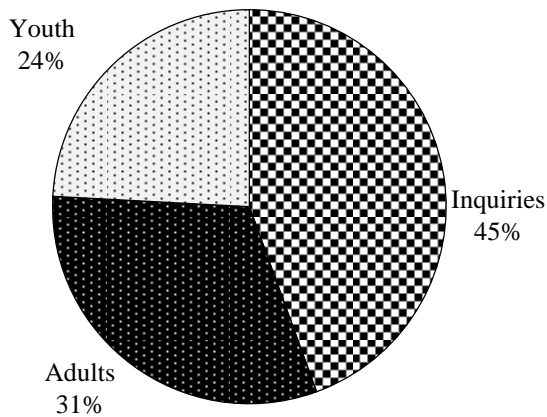
Medium Populated (>102,000 <500,000 residents)

Oneida County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

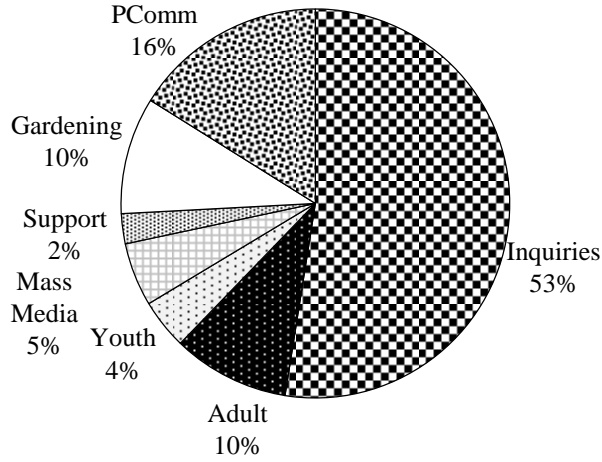
In 2007, Oneida County Master Gardener Volunteers raised awareness of the benefits of gardening with native plants among their fellow volunteers and the general public. Their activities included participating in advanced training programs focused on native plants, incorporating and highlighting native plants in the educational gardens at CCE of Oneida County and staffing an educational booth about native and invasive plants at 11th Annual Herb & Flower Festival hosted by CCE of Oneida County. 2007 Festival vendors were pleased to report an increase interest in and sale of native plant materials for home gardens.

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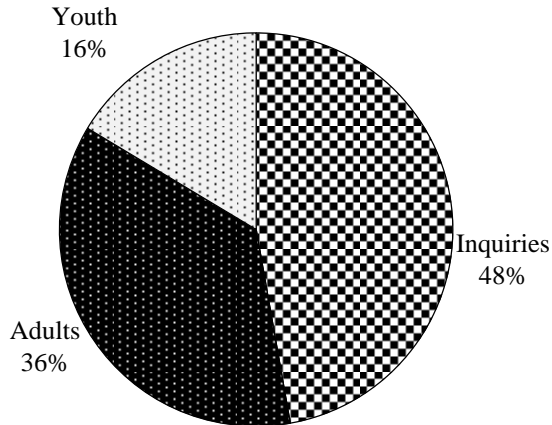
Medium Populated (>102,000 <500,000 residents)

Saratoga County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts

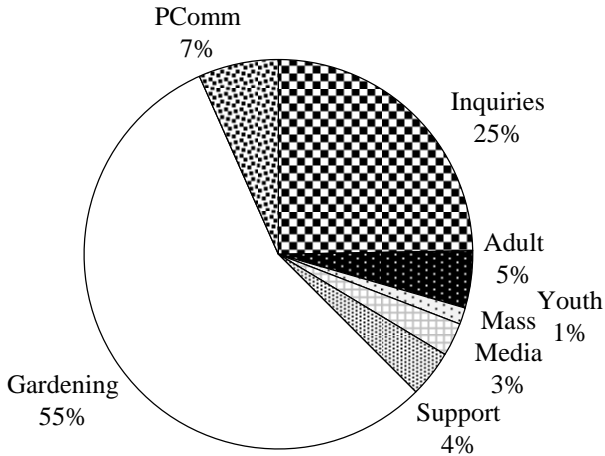


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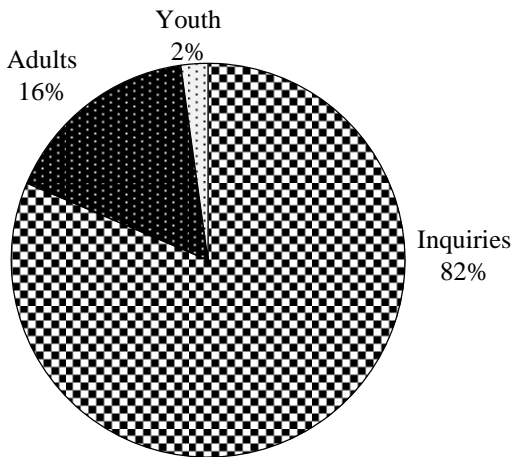
Medium Populated (>102,000 <500,000 residents)

Niagara County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

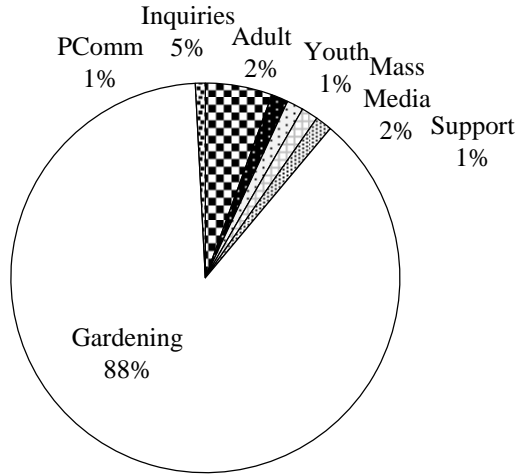
Niagara Cornell Cooperative Extension has a 30'x100' greenhouse that was acquired through an employment training grant several years ago and its use has expanded to other educational programs, Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) activities and small research projects but paid staff to maintain the plant collections house there is not sufficient. Engaging MGV in taking ownership of the greenhouse plants and environment was identified as a viable approach to maintaining this vital resource. MGV could use it to supplement their classroom training with hands-on experience and could look at additional ways to use the greenhouse in public educational programs. MGV agreed and took responsibility for watering, monitoring and other general plant care. One MGV with expertise in plant propagation increased the existing cacti and succulent collection twofold so now CCE is able to sell many plants at the county fair and other public venues with plant sale profits being available to offset operational costs of the greenhouse. Niagara CCE's Board of Directors is pleased with the more organized appearance and increased use of the greenhouse. While the MGV are taking pride in their greenhouse work and continue to look for other ways to use the facility that fit into Niagara CCE's overall educational objectives.

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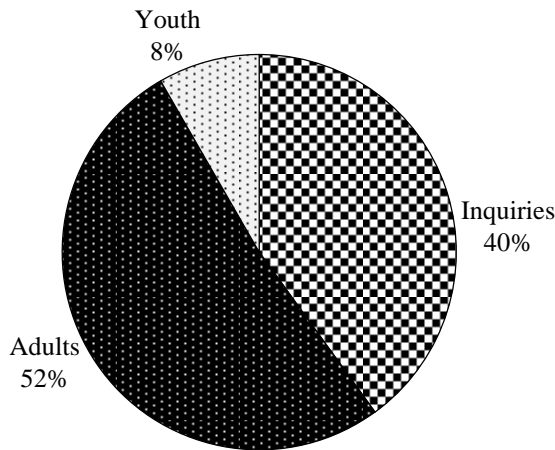
Medium Populated (>102,000 <500,000 residents)

Broome County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

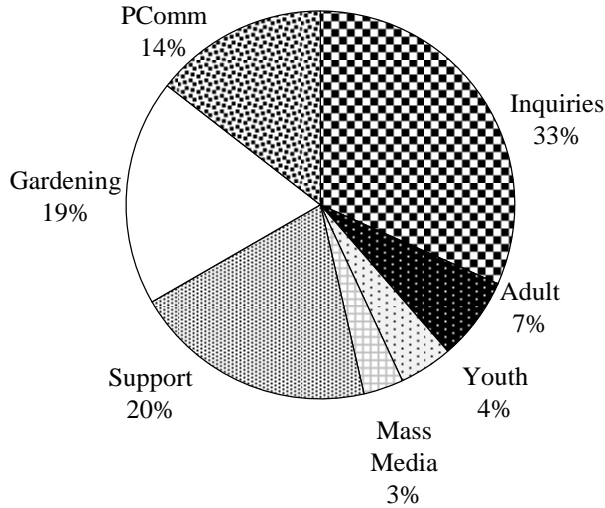
Many garden questions were being asked to the Nutrition Educators, and other CCE employees who worked the Farmer's Markets in Broome County. Consequently, the Broome County Master Gardener Volunteer program organized to staff an information table at several markets throughout the season. Their goal was to raise awareness about their hotline, the local Master Gardener Volunteer program and the resources available at CCE and Cutler Botanic Garden by answering horticulture questions, handing out literature about the hotline and recruiting lawn owners to take the State CCE Lawncare survey. The traffic at the information table varied with the market.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

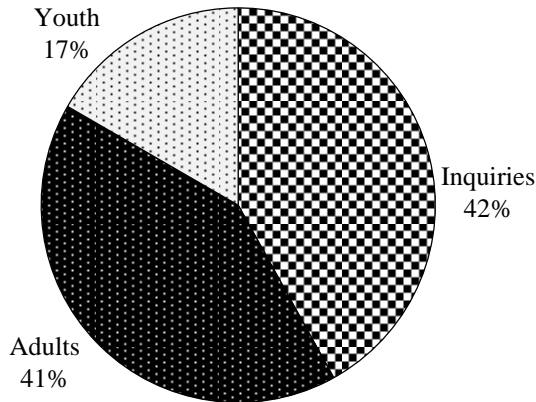
Medium Populated (>102,000 <500,000 residents)

Ulster County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

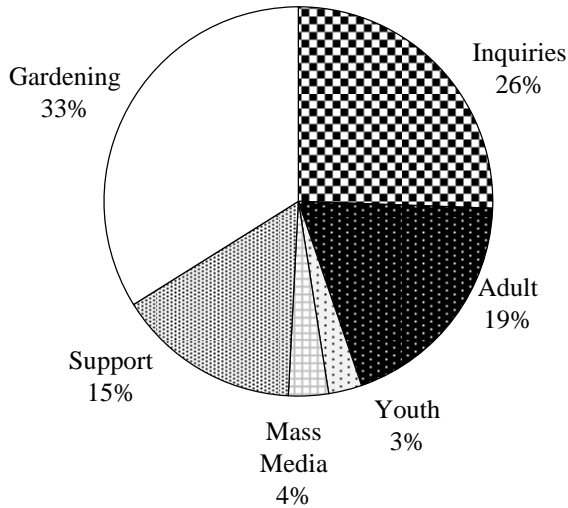
Ulster County Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) were interested in being more involved in the horticultural show at the Ulster County Fair after hosting a flower show there in 2006. They hoped to improve the quality of the entries and to hold educational gardening lectures and demonstrations each day of the five days of fair while also making use of a previously abandoned building. They were able to see their goal realized when prior to the 2007 fair the building was refurbished to help their effort and they personally rearranged the indoor space to accommodate their needs and planted the outside with summer flowering perennials. During the fair they offered two daily public lectures and workshops for children through adults on topics such as composting, xeriscape gardening, easy care gardening, and perennials. They also received horticulture and vegetable entries and awarded prizes based on Ulster County Fair guidelines. The feedback from the workshops participants has helped them plan next years topics and requests have also lead to them revamping the schedule of horticulture and vegetable entries to better reflect what is ripe and blooming during fair time.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

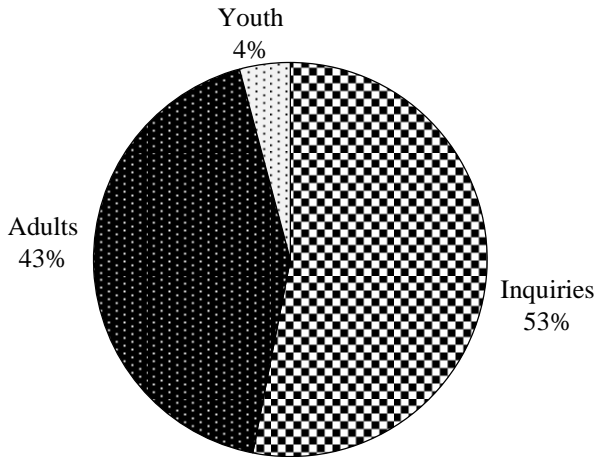
Medium Populated (>102,000 <500,000 residents)

Rensselaer County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

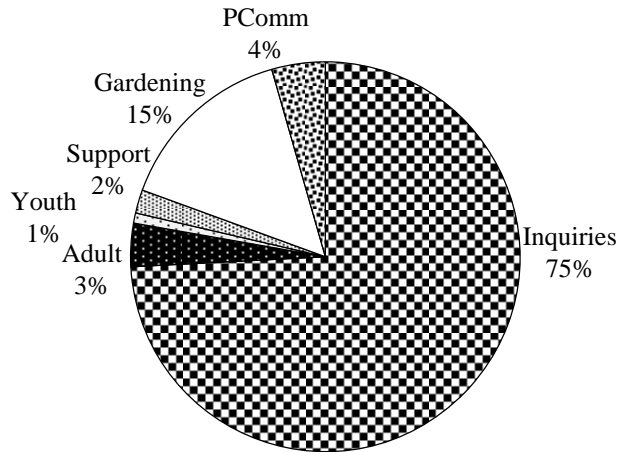
In Rensselaer County Cornell Cooperative Extension has partnered with a local school to turn their grounds into a living classroom for students and the general public. The gardens include an outdoor gazebo, herb garden and bluebird houses. Master Gardener Volunteers have played a central role in the development of new gardens, garden maintenance, leading evening classes and student projects related to wildlife conservation. Teachers also use the gardens for other formal instruction. Public attendance at evening sessions has been good and word of mouth reports indicate many citizens visit and enjoy the public gardens when programs are not in session.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

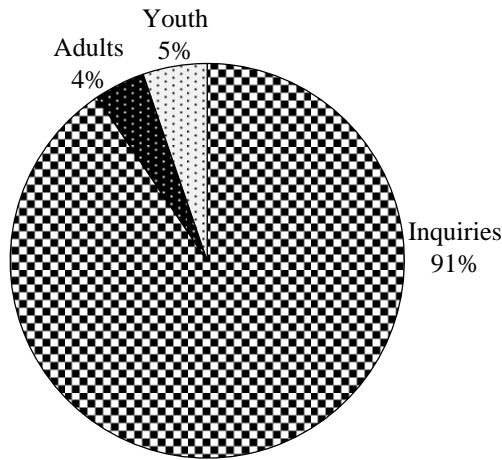
Medium Populated (>102,000 <500,000 residents)

Schenectady County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

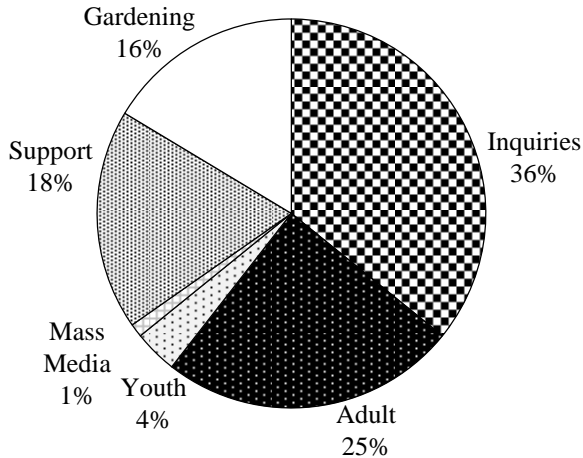
Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) in CCE Schenectady County are helping beautify community spaces and provide a stabilizing influence in the lives of county job training clients. MGV work in the greenhouse transplanting annuals and assisting with the teaching of clients. They also aid in the distribution of over 100,000 annual plants to public gardens.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

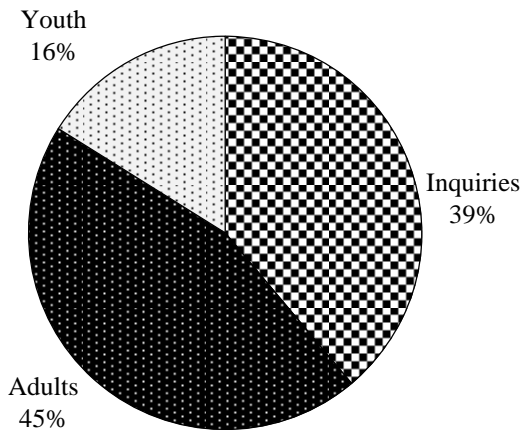
Medium Populated (>102,000 <500,000 residents)

Allegany/Cattaraugus County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

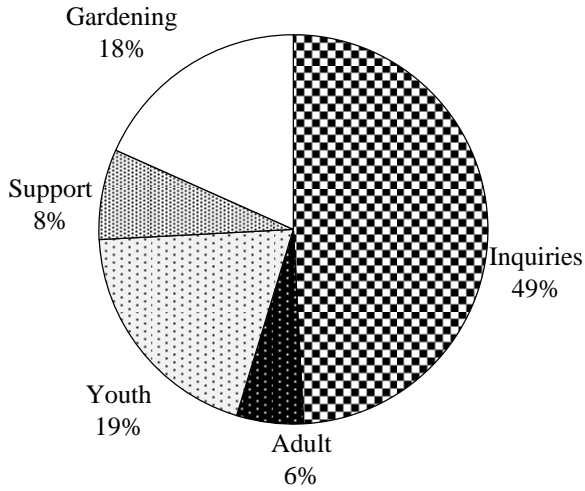
Talking and dancing farm animals in mass media combined with the growing disconnection from our food source can lead to a number of false beliefs including thinking chocolate milk comes from brown cows. Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) in the Allegany/Cattaraugus Counties program want to help children separate such fantasies from facts. They feel since so few children come from a farm background it is important to take the time to educate children about the ultimate source of their food. With this motivation, MGV spent approximately an hour reading to classes that ranged in size from 15-40 as part of the Agricultural Literacy Day. MGV also provided plant seeds to the students to encourage them to start their own gardens while others donated funds so the school could purchase the literacy day book. Response was extremely positive and demonstrated by schools and teachers contacting CCE to get on the schedule for future years and asking if the program can be expanded to additional grade levels. MGV now include all public grade schools in Allegany County and are on their way to including all in Cattaraugus County.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

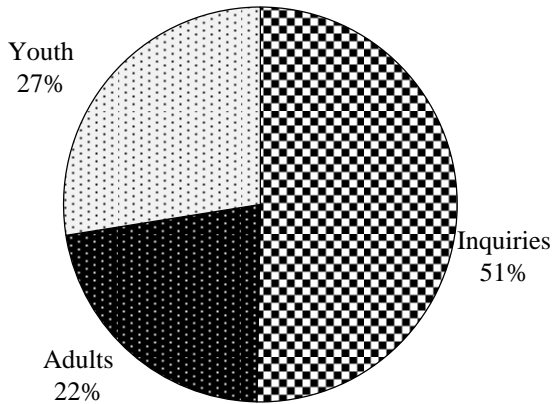
Medium Populated (>102,000 <500,000 residents)

Oswego County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts

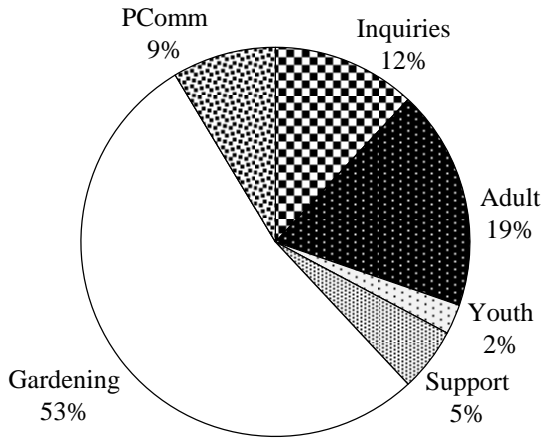


**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

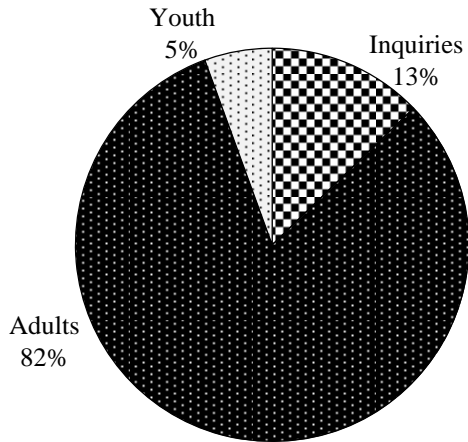
Medium Populated (>102,000 <500,000 residents)

Jefferson County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

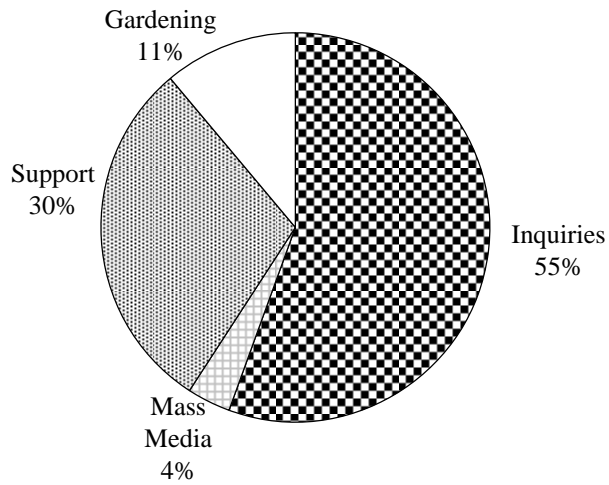
It can be easy to grow your own vegetables. In Jefferson County Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) designed, planted and maintained a public demonstration vegetable garden to show their citizens how and to offer a chance for children, youth and adults to see the ultimate source of their vegetables. MGV were particularly interested in engaging low-income families and seniors to encourage them to consider producing their own food so they gave tours of the garden during CCE's weekly farmer's market that targets families and seniors. Tour participants included children and families who showed good interest in the vegetable garden.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

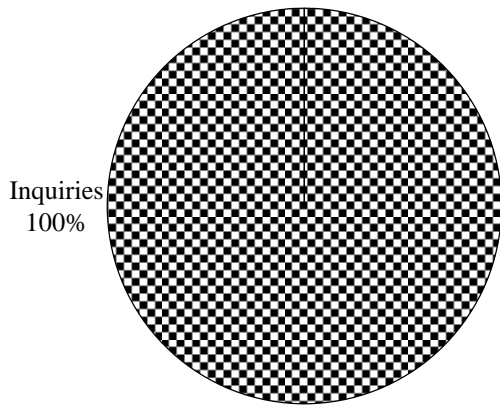
Medium Populated (>102,000 <500,000 residents)

St. Lawrence County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts

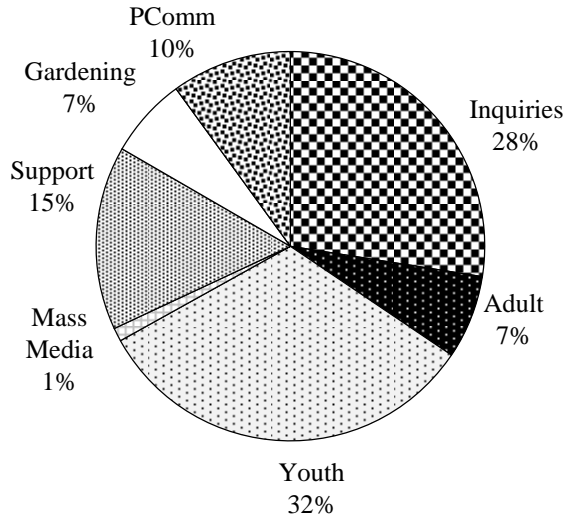


**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

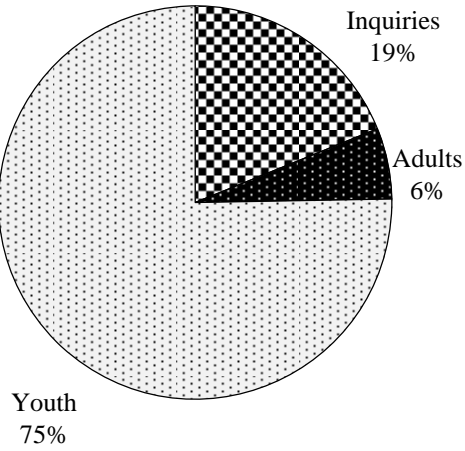
Medium Populated (>102,000 <500,000 residents)

Ontario County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts

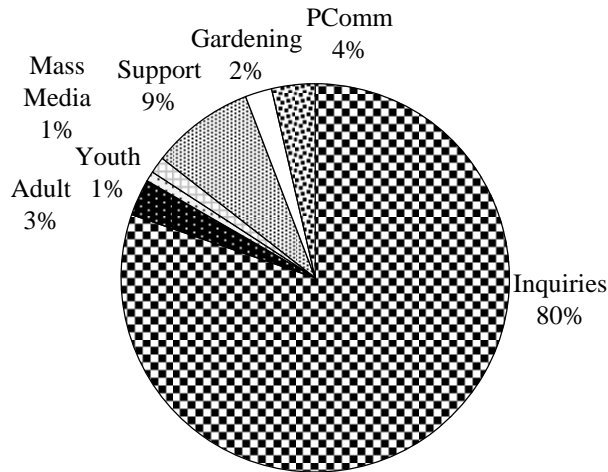


**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

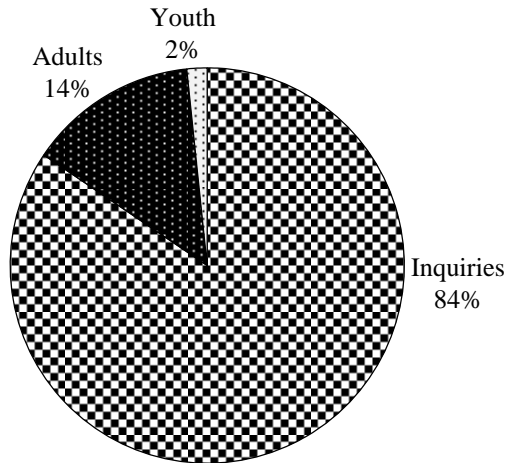
Medium Populated (>102,000 <500,000 residents)

Fulton/Montgomery County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

Master Gardener Volunteers at the Cornell Cooperative Extension office in Fulton/Montgomery counties step up to staff their office hotline for more than 1,100 volunteer hours. This was most critical during this time period when there was no horticulture educator in the office. Their efforts allowed the CCE county office to make more than 2,700 direct citizen contacts this year.

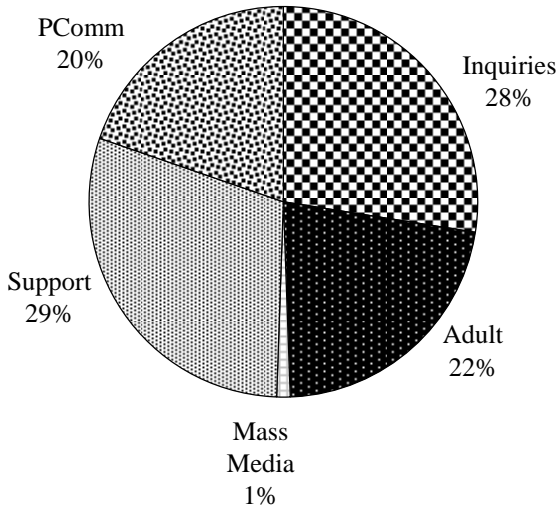
**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

Least Populated Counties Individual Summary and Program Highlight

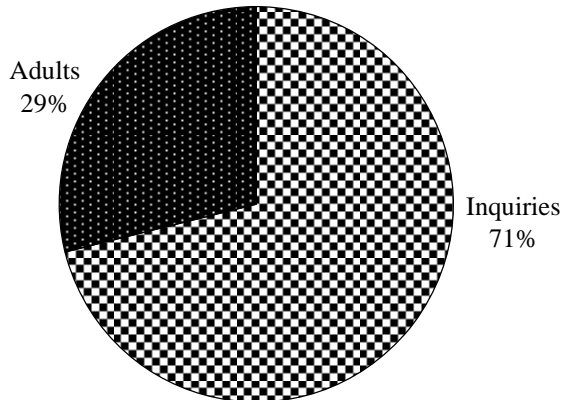
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Tompkins County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

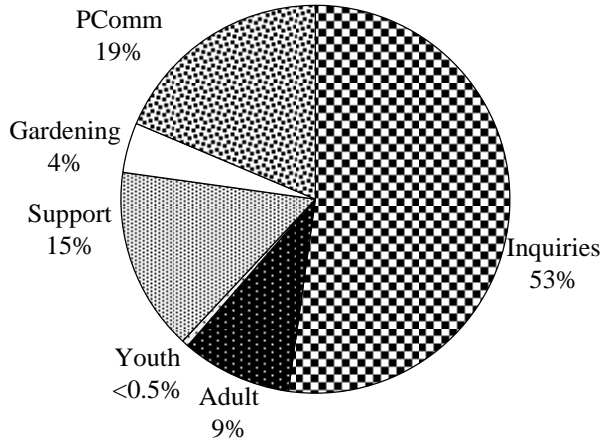
Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) have taken a more prominent role in the container gardening workshop Tompkins County Cornell Cooperative Extension (TCCCE) host for low income families in their Nutrition EFNEP program. The workshop is based on the research that growing vegetables reinforces eating healthy fresh produce and it aims to help individuals learn how to grow some vegetables even if they do not have access to land. MGV are offering more and more service in this project as they recognize the satisfaction they gain by helping low-income members of the community discover the joys of gardening and eating fresh home grown produce so the program benefits extend to both the participants and MGV. MGV help provide one-one guidance in planting seedlings which is most valuable as some participants have never planted anything before. Personal observation from TCCCE staff note that volunteers enjoyed this project very much as it is not only helping less fortunate people, but it is a hands-on activity where they can share their knowledge as they provide one-one assistance. Participants are overjoyed at the opportunity to plant a container of vegetables that they take home with them. Many have never thought about growing food in containers. Many participants come back every year and report on their successes. While they do not have enough plants to make an impact on their food purchases, they are able to experience fresh tastes of home grown. They also share their knowledge with other family members giving them insights about growing and including veggies in their diets.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

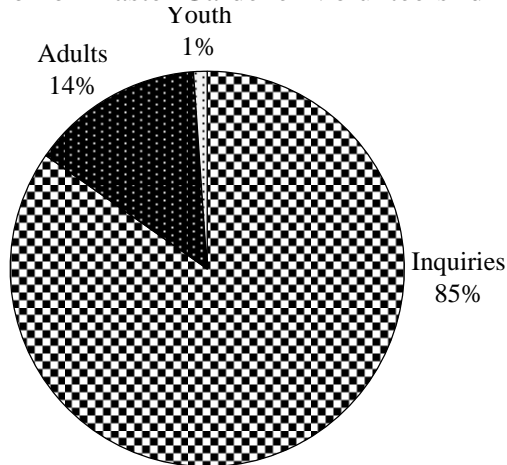
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Putnam County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

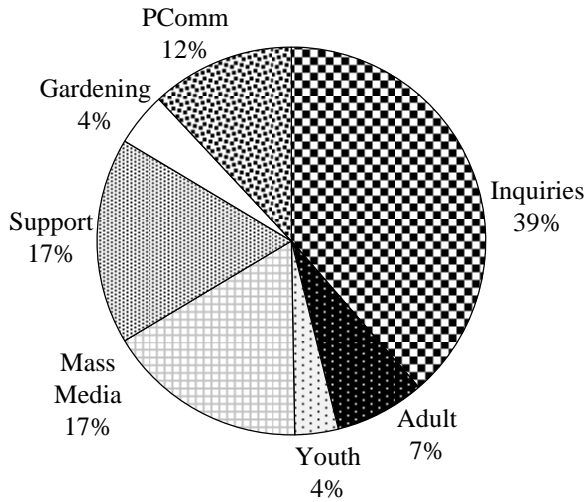
In Putnam County Cornell Cooperative Extension a Spring Garden School revival has come. It was motivated by a desire to remind the community that CCE is a quality source for gardening information and to provide Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) with an opportunity to share their expertise as well as skills in spearheading all planning and implementation aspects of a day of workshops. MGV's efforts were well received based on the good feedback from participants.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

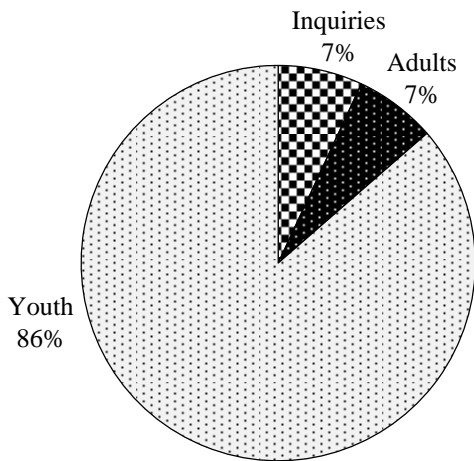
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Steuben County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

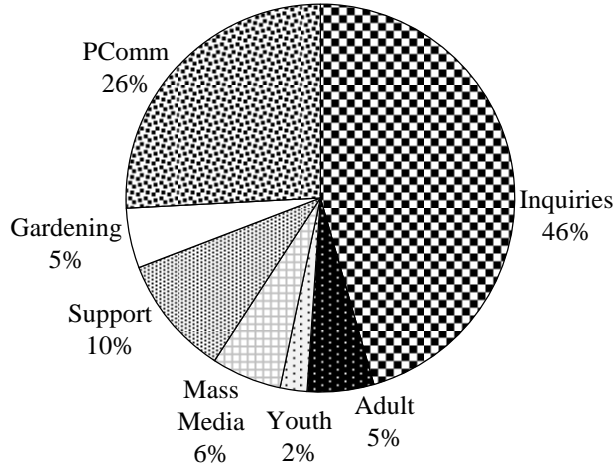
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) program knew they could and needed to reach a wide audience to let the public know they were newly reorganized and available to help meet citizen's gardening needs through a wide range of services. So MGV started writing a monthly newspaper article that reaches over 10,000 potential readers. In their 1,400 words each month they shared their expertise on various pertinent topics from soil preparation to vegetable gardening. Their efforts paid off with increasing calls to the garden hotline from the areas that the newspaper reached.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

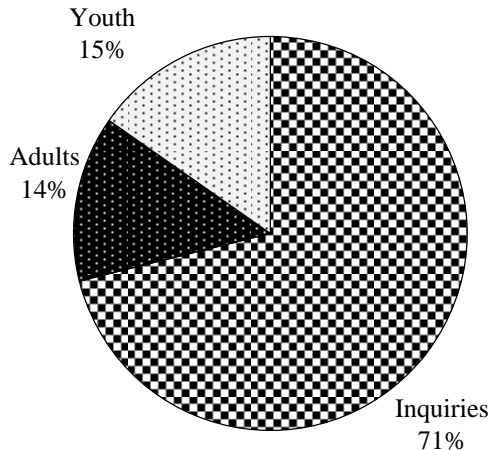
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Wayne County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

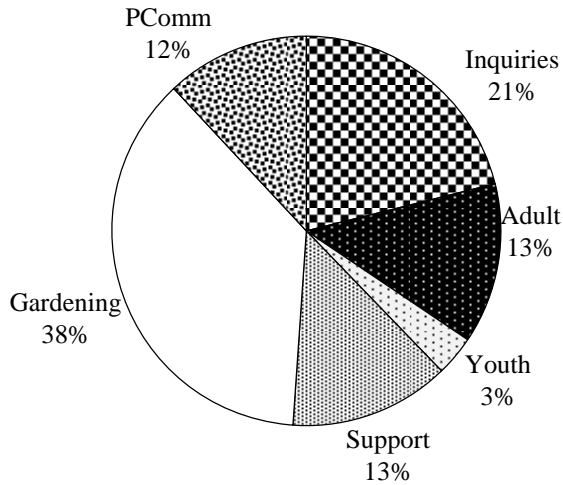
An enrichment teacher from the Williamson Central Middle School contacted the Wayne County Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners (MGV) requesting assistance in the planning and establishment of a community beautification garden in their school courtyard. With the combined effort of the 5th & 6th grade students and MGV the Board of Education approved a school garden. To help the students in their planning, MGV gave presentations that addressed basic gardening concepts such as site selection and modification, plant selection, how to properly install plants, soil amendments, and plant maintenance requirements (including management without pesticides). On the day of planting, the students came to the planting site where they joined the MGV who gave them instruction on correct planting methods. As the morning went on the students were given a chance to apply what they had learned. Activities included digging and preparing the planting hole, removing plants from their containers without breaking them, teasing the roots so they would go into the new soil, planting at proper depths, and watering the plants correctly, which they learned, could help decrease the spread of plant disease. At the completion of their project many of the 101 students involved discussed how well the garden turned out. Several stated that they were going to grow some plants at their home. Ms. Abdunnasir expressed her appreciation to the MGV for their presentations, input and for their patience with the students. She later informed us that the project was so well received that plans were underway for phase two which would include a second garden that would contain a bench made by the shop class. MGV also received an invitation to for phase 2 of the project.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

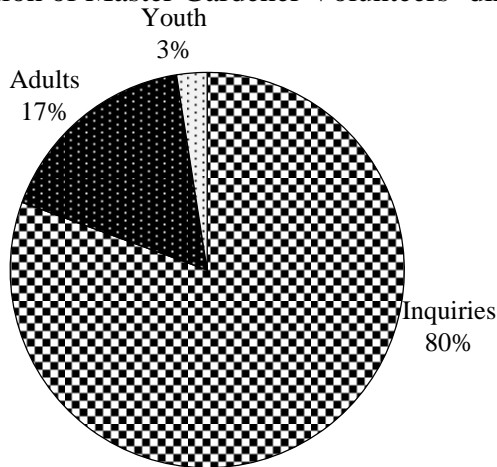
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Chemung County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

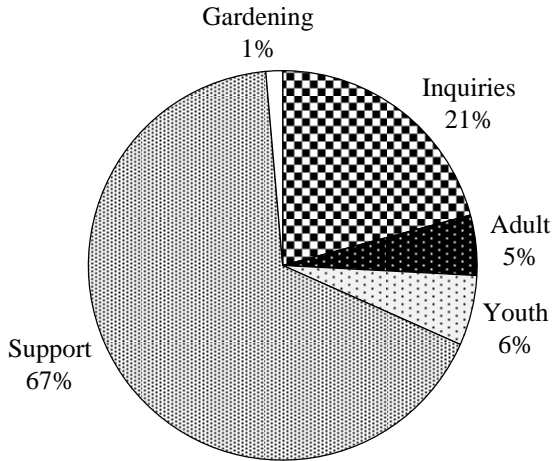
Residents of Chemung County value their Cornell Cooperative Extension home and garden hotline service provided by Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV). When CCE of Chemung County was looking at devastating program cuts in the last half of 2007, the one program that 100% of those surveyed said not to cut was the Master Gardener Program, specifically their hotline service. Volunteers work at the hotline help desk five days a week answering the phone, returning emails, or replying to snail mail. The majority of people are looking for basic home gardening information, though "hot topics" such as giant hogweed and numerous very technical botany questions come in. Further, the MGV program uses their hotline expertise to achieve success in other program efforts. For example, they are currently trying to raise awareness of the benefits of home vegetable gardening through their involvement in the EastSide Market. At the market they answer questions about locally grown produce. Their involvement in the EastSide Market helped secure a new vendor in 2007.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

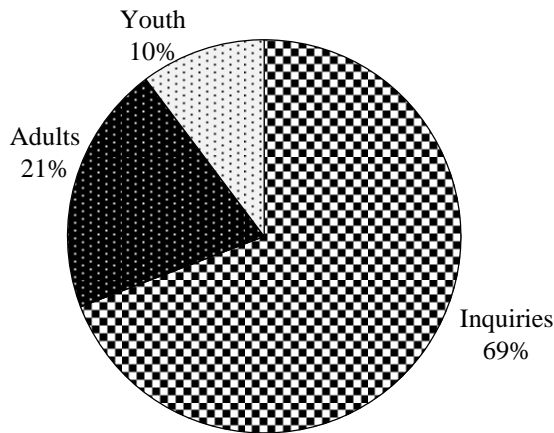
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Clinton County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

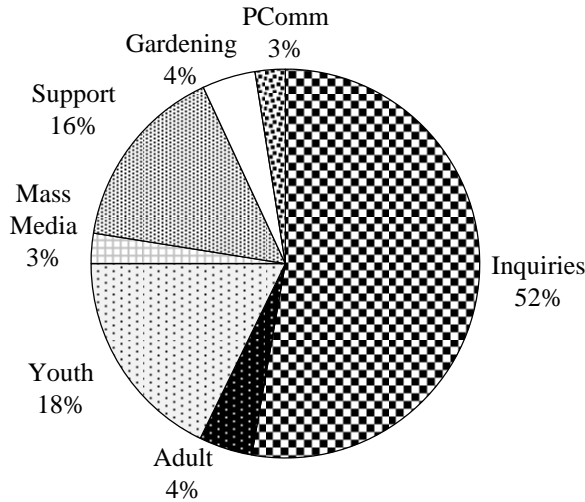
In Clinton County, Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers' assistance with their home and garden hotline has been essential because the Horticultural Program Assistant position has been part time and call/walk-in volume has been large. Many question come in related to lawns and MGV have aim to help lawn owners understand how they can reduce their fertilizer use, apply fertilizer at the proper time and mow at a height that promotes plant health. MGV personal communication with residents, lawn care magnets and rulers to aid in setting mowers at correct height are some of the tactics used to promote behavioral changes that improve lawn and environment health while saving lawn owners time and money. Staff and MGV have heard residents comment on their improved lawn appearance when they cut their grass higher by raising their mower blade. Clinton County MGV feel success has been achieved if one or two people make a positive change and report their results to friends. This word of mouth approach can be slow but they have observed it to be effective.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

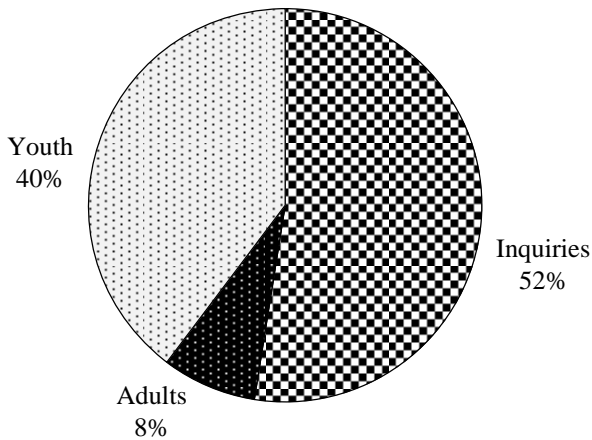
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Cayuga County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

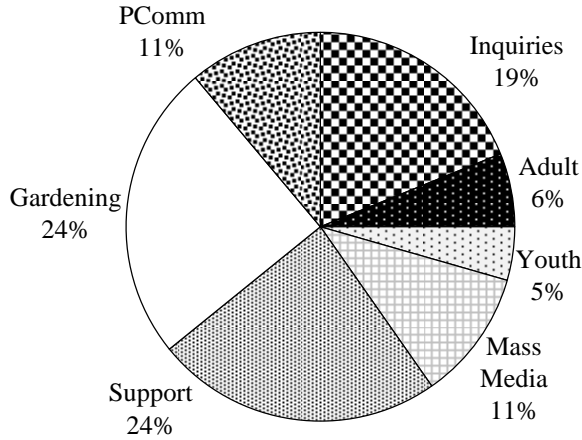
Cayuga County's main festival is TomatoFest. TomatoFest has number of booths, vendors, carnival rides and activities that keep residents busy but lacks any focus on tomatoes. When Cornell's Garden-based Learning program contacted Cayuga County's Master Gardener Volunteer program regarding a funding opportunity to hold vegetable variety taste testing they immediately thought of TomatoFest and were successful in receiving the funds to staff a tomato variety taste testing booth at the September festival. Cayuga County MGV were hoping to expose community members to new tomato varieties as well as vegetable varieties, promote the Master Gardener Volunteer Program, Cornell Cooperative Extension and Cornell University. Anyone who attended TomatoFest could visit the MGV booth and taste up to nine different tomato varieties for free! The booth attracted well over 300 people with 137 people willing to share their favorite tomato variety with us. The winner of the taste testing was Black Krim, a unique looking tomato that shocked many people with its wonderful taste. Second place went to Persimmon, a yellow tomato with a sweet taste, and third place was Striped Zebra, a green tomato with light yellow stripes. Many people were surprised that tomatoes could be so "juicy", "sweet" and "full of flavor." This was an excellent opportunity for our MGV as well as the community who had much fun with the taste

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

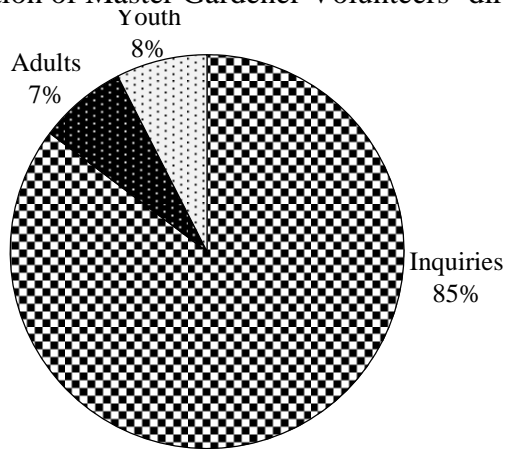
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Sullivan County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

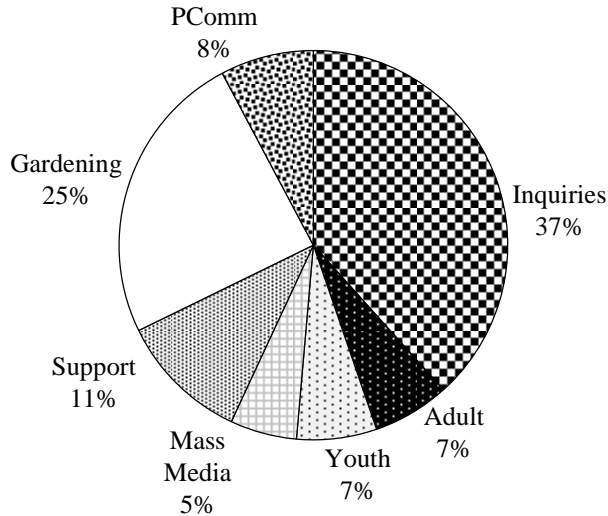
A Sullivan County Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteer had noticed a sharp decline in horticulture entries at the county fair. This spurred thoughts about the need to spark interest to fuel the next generation of gardeners and how teachers could use gardens and their ecology to teach across the curriculum. Thoughts moved to action when school gardens were constructed to help teach science, history, geography and ecology. MGV's taught 1st through 8th grades about soil, insects, composting and seed starting after which these classes planted their own school gardens. Teachers expressed how much the children enjoyed the classes. One school even won a prize from the local Community Beautification organization for their school garden. The success has lead to the addition of 2 more schools for this year's program and MGV hope to see horticulture entries increase at the county fair.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

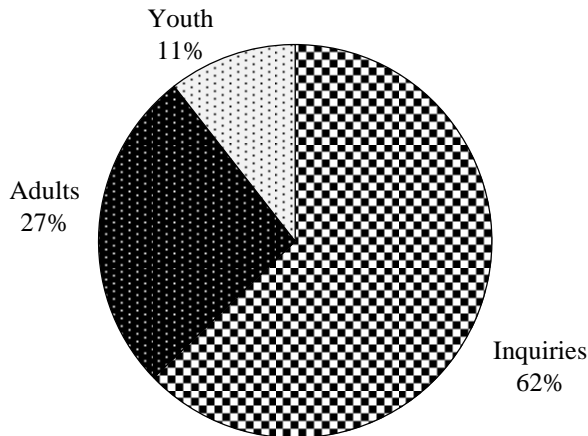
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Warren County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

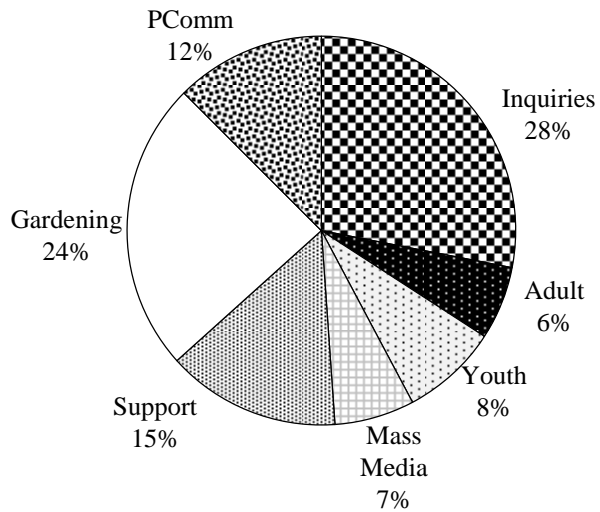
In Warren County one Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) saw a need in his community and pulled together his network of resources including his fellow MGVS to support an initiative to make a difference in the lives of clients at a local substance abuse rehabilitation center. Once people were gathered and tools were donated a goal was set to use the creation of a flower and a vegetable garden to provide a worthwhile activity for people in the substance abuse program that could offer a successful experience and a sense of pride. The substance abuse center would also gain a more attractive landscape. The center's clients participated with staff and MGVS to plan, prepare and care for the gardens. CCE staff report that the gardens thrived and the participants in the project enjoyed seeing and maintaining the flower garden area and enjoyed harvesting and using the vegetables. Warren County flower and vegetable garden project is a very great example of how CCE's MGVS can reach out and improve not only the local landscape, but the lives of many people. The MGV who tapped his networks to get this started plans to continue leading this program towards continual success.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

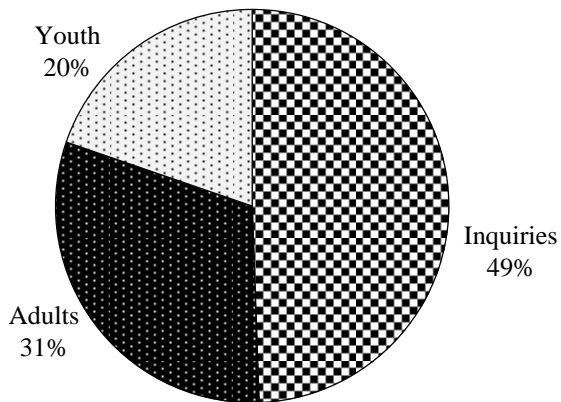
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Livingston County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts

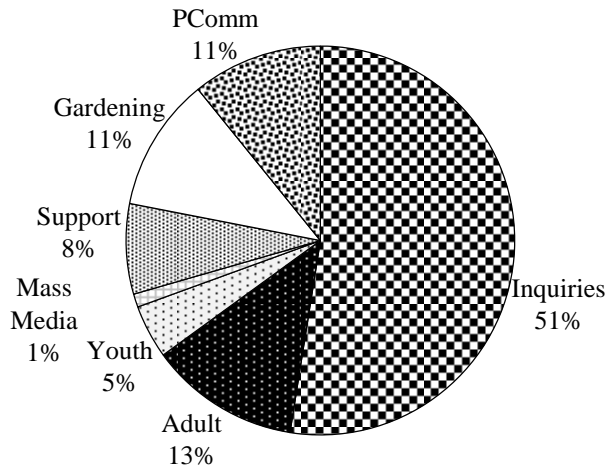


**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

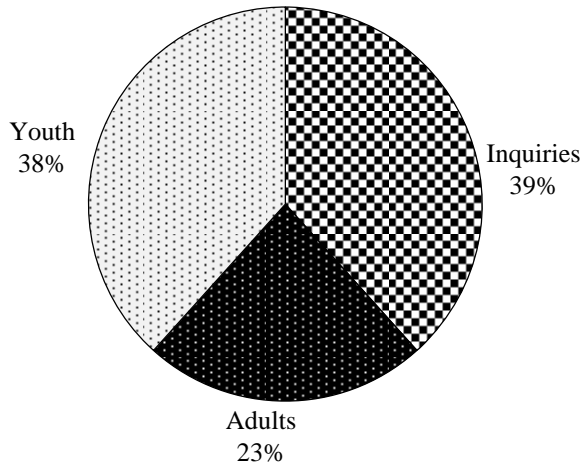
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Washington County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

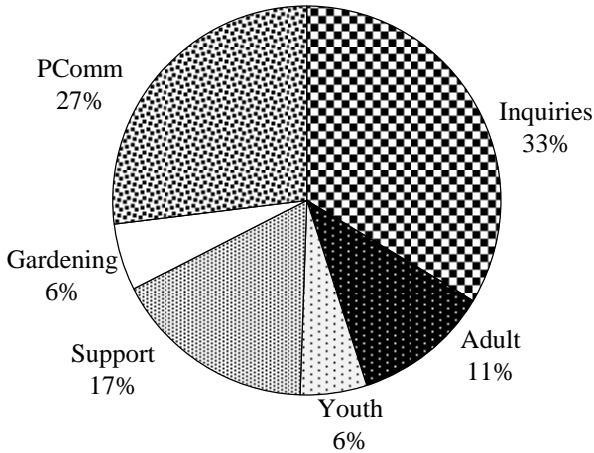
Washington County Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers take the leadership in planning and hosting an annual bus tour. The tour has focused on visiting area resources with horticultural significance such as the Stone Barns' edible crops gardens in the Hudson Valley, the New England wildflower garden and the landscapes at Innisfree and Opus 40. The promotion of this event by MGV recruits participant from throughout the community. In addition to organizing all the logistics of the tours, MGV present educational information relevant to each tour stop. Attendance regularly reaches 50 people and past participants eagerly contact the CCE office looking to pre-register for the next tour. The MGV leading this educational opportunity find it most enjoyable and a great learning experience. The annual bus tour is a highly valued part of MGV program.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Herkimer County

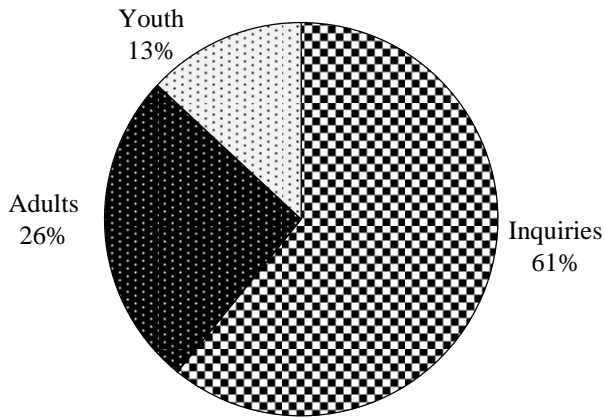
Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Program Highlight

The active 2007 Master Gardener Volunteer in Herkimer County Cornell Cooperative Extension is keen on raising public awareness about home vegetable gardening, especially successful varieties for raised beds. By staffing the county fair vegetable department he has been able to connect with a number of citizens. Moreover, he has seen an increase in participation at the county fair in the area of vegetable gardening.

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts

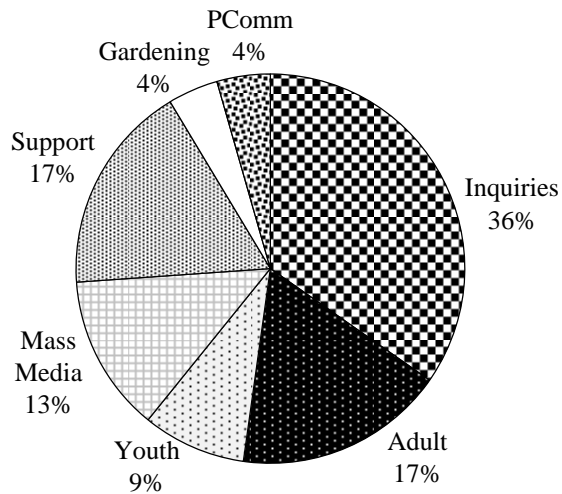


**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

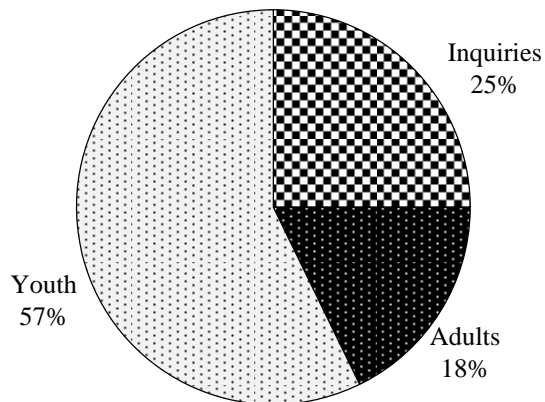
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Otsego County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts

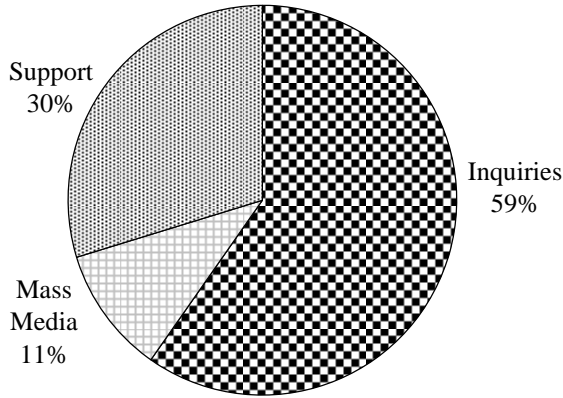


**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

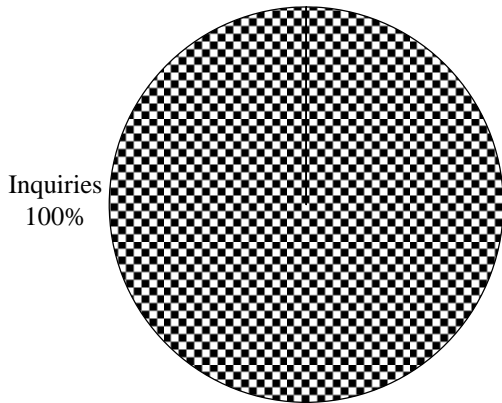
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Columbia County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

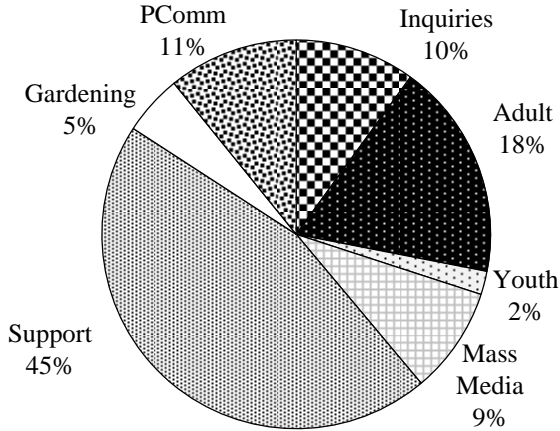
Residents in Columbia County have home and gardening questions. Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program sees a need to help citizens find answers to these questions via phone and now e-mail. Through plant swaps, classes, newsletter and other activities staff and volunteers connect with a number of citizens and encourage them to call the office hotline where trained MGV are on hand to find answers and help them resolve their lawn and gardening issues. Through the phone and email communications all types of people, ages and genders are reached ranging from the beginner to avid gardener. Columbia County CCE regularly receives thank you notes from residents who have benefited from their advice.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

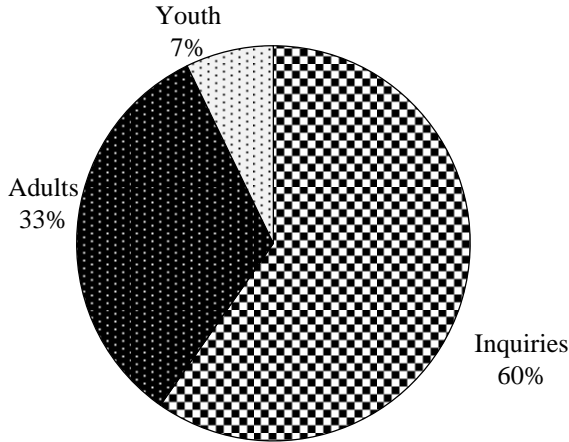
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Genesee County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

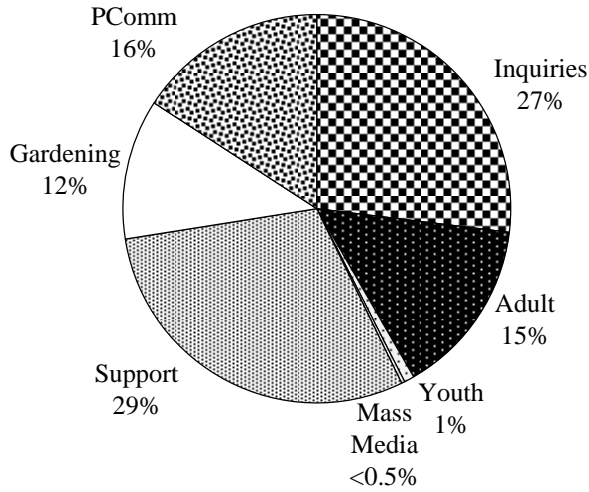
Master Gardener Volunteers at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Genesee County like the additional training and one-on-one contact with residents they gain when they staff their office hotline. The Genesee County CCE Garden-based Learning program is striving to promote IPM (Integrated Pest Management) practices by talking with people who call their hotline about options they might consider that go beyond pesticides. Personal communications with the MGV reveal that they are practicing in their own yards the approach they are discussing with callers.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

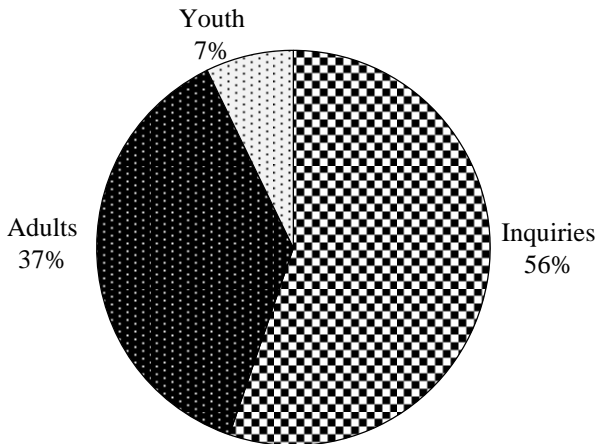
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Chenango County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

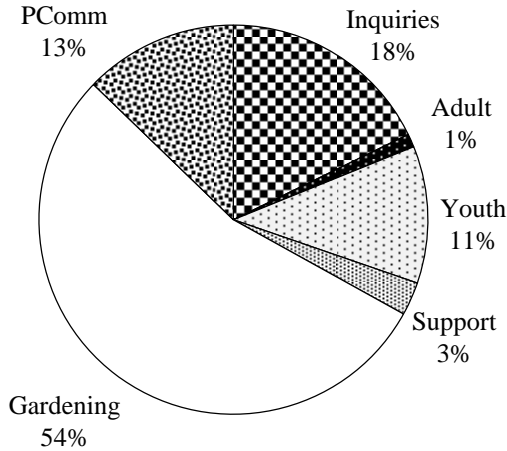
A Spring Garden Festival increased the community awareness of gardening programming and resources available at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County. Master Gardener Volunteers spearheaded the promotional and advertising efforts of this festival and then led educational sessions, staffed display booths and held a bake sale. About hundred people came and all seemed to enjoy the event. Plans are in the works to have a second event this year.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

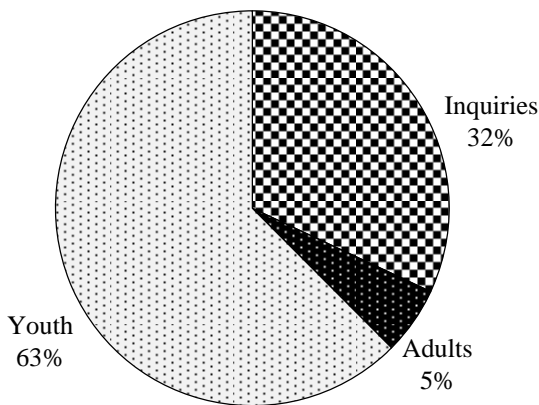
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Tioga County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

Tioga County Cornell Cooperative Extension has observed that there is a great deal of misinformation related to gardening and wildlife control out there especially on the internet. Many people overuse pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and fertilizers which contribute to environmental degradation. It is with this in mind that Master Gardener Volunteers answer inquiries with an IPM (Integrated Pest Management) approach. The information they are sharing will help people consider alternative options before jumping to chemical controls. Then if chemicals are necessary they know which chemical is appropriate and how to use it effectively.

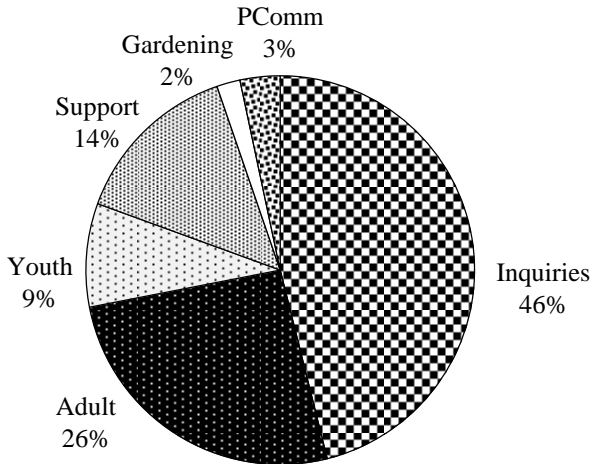
Volunteers take the time to answer individual question over the phone and always follow up with supplying written materials (from a University Cooperative Extension source) to back up their advice. Of the 274 phone inquiries fielded in 2007, 84 concerned a possible application of a chemical. By sharing alternative management approaches and information on properly applying chemicals volunteers have helped eliminate many pounds of chemicals that would have entered the Susaquehanna watershed. Staff further report that many of the common insect pests that they receive inquiries about are harmless to people (box elder bugs, western conifer seed bugs and lady bugs). When people hear that the pesticides are more dangerous than the actual pest they are more receptive to alternative controls. A caller, upon hearing box elder bugs were just a nuisance not a dangerous pest, hugged the volunteer and said he was ready to spray until provided with this information which help him decide not to spray a synthetic pesticide.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

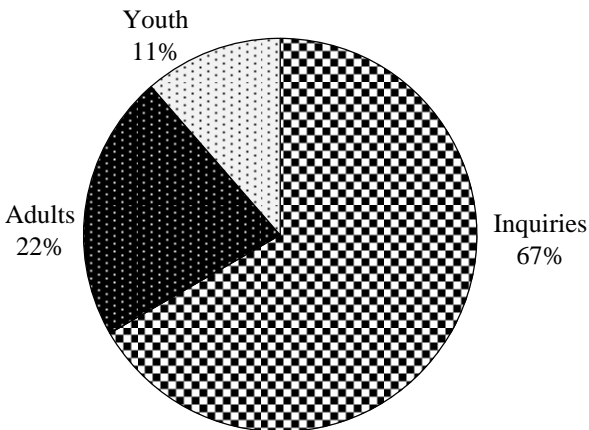
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Greene County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

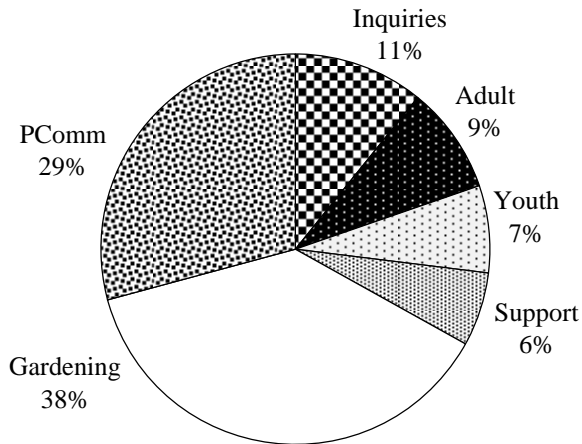
Moving to a new office can set a program back or set it up for a new beginning. At Cornell Cooperative Extension in Greene County the latter was true. Master Gardener Volunteers were vital in moving the resources of their office 5 miles up the road to their new facilities. While the volunteers spearheaded the details of packing, unpacking, organizing, changing addresses on factsheets and much more the staff members were able to continue their outreach efforts without missing a beat and even ended up better able to start a Master Gardener Volunteer hotline. This behind the scenes effort will never make the front page of the local paper but makes a difference in the success of a program.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

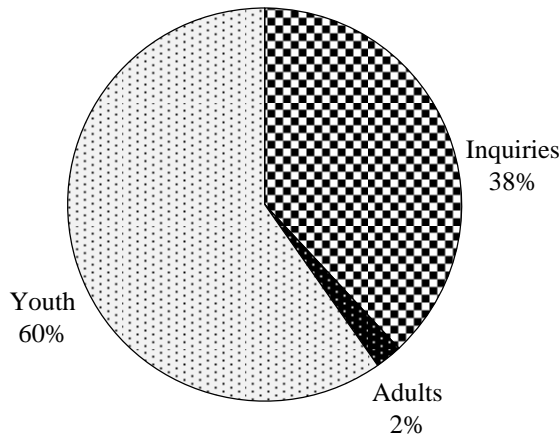
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Orleans County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

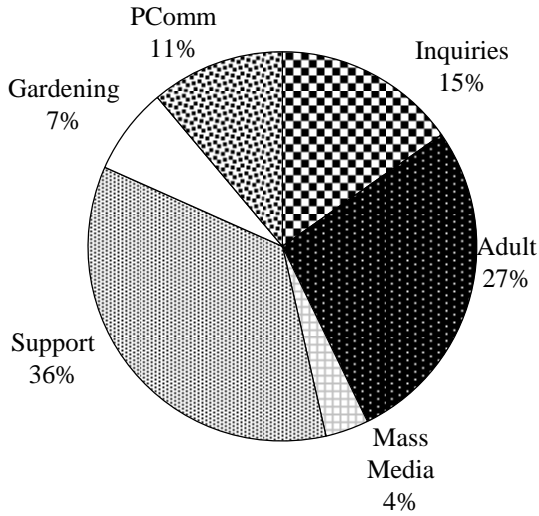
Community projects are critical to the educational efforts of the Master Gardener Volunteer program in Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension. This year volunteers have had the opportunity to create public demonstration/teaching gardens at their new office location at the county Fairgrounds as well as part of the new wing for Alzheimer patients at the county nursing home. The office gardens will help show how even the toughest locations can be cared for to create viable gardens and will be vital in future educational workshops. The nursing home garden project builds on MGV past efforts at Hospice and ARC to raise awareness of how nature can assist in comfort and healing.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

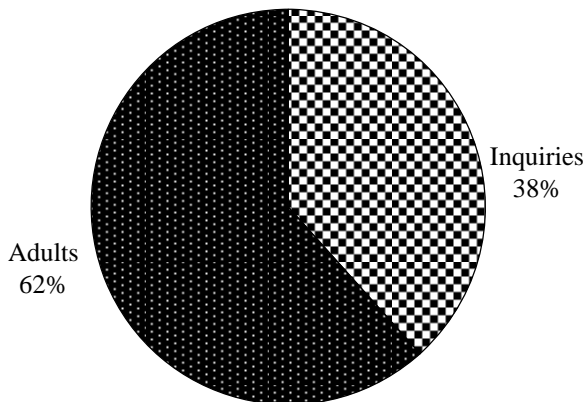
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Wyoming County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

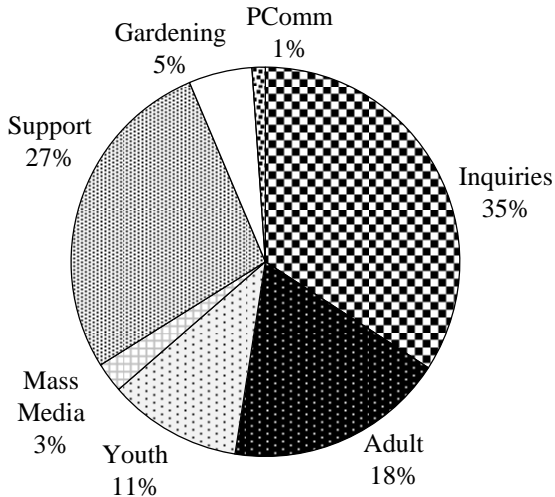
Garden Day at Wyoming County Cornell Cooperative Extension offers a great educational experience for the community and enough volunteer opportunities that all the Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) have something they are comfortable doing. MGV have roles in digging and potting plants, selling plants, decorating, serving beverages, answering gardening questions, testing soil pH, sharing their expertise by presenting a session and more. 2007 was the second year of this event which also serves as a fundraiser for the county program and attendance jumped from 50 the first year to over 200. Participants were mostly women ages 17 to 80 but also included a few whole families. Written evaluations received from participants were all positive.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

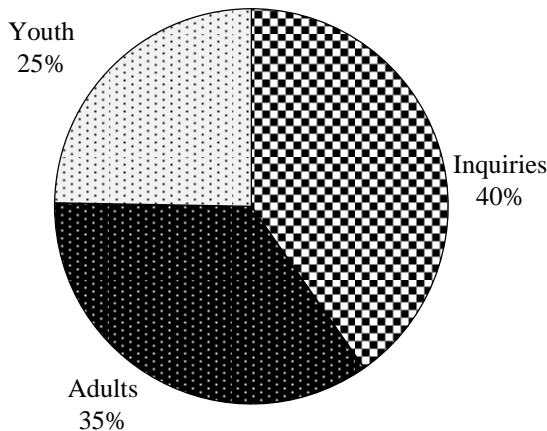
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Essex County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

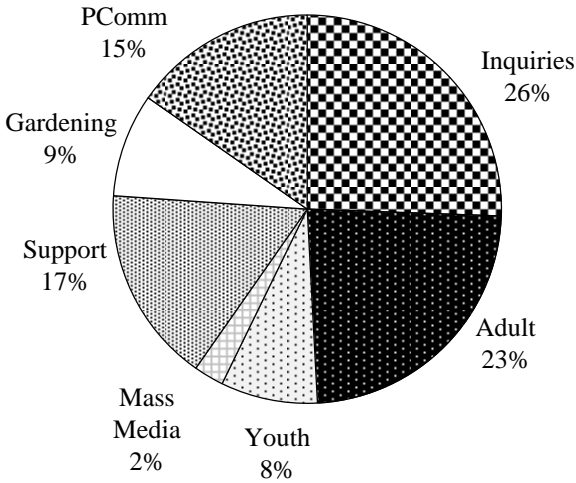
In conjunction with the Lake Champlain Basin Program, Essex and Clinton Counties Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) developed a "Lake Friendly Gardening Program" comprised of 5 steps: "Don't Treat Your Soil Like Dirt", "Put the Right Plant in the Right Place", "Use Mulch", "Think Before Using Pesticides and Fertilizers", and "Mow Right". They found through surveys at various MGCV events that the step most folks were flummoxed by was Lawn Care. Since they do live on a lake and a large portion of the questions on their office Growline involve lawn care, they hoped by targeting lawn care practices in general and "Mow High" (part of the Cornell statewide effort, too) in particular, they wanted to raise homeowners' and lawn care companies' awareness - as well as their blades. They designed and distributed refrigerator magnets reading "The simplest Lawn Care Plan for lush turf - 1. Keep your lawn 3" high; and, 2. Fertilize once a year around Labor Day", and sturdy, green plastic, 6" rulers saying "Mow it High!" keep your lawn at 3-4" and with CCE county phone number and website. Local Farmers' Markets seemed to reach the most number of people though magnets were available at most MGCV venues. Some MGCV staffing the Growline as well as those participating at the Farmers' Markets had people tell them that they would tell their lawn care people what to do and not do. Some lawn care companies who called in for advice said they would change some of their practices, too, especially regarding the overuse of Scott's 4-Way Program that some homeowners insist upon.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

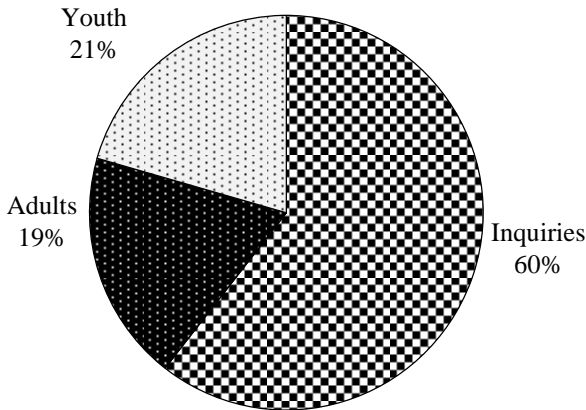
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Seneca County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

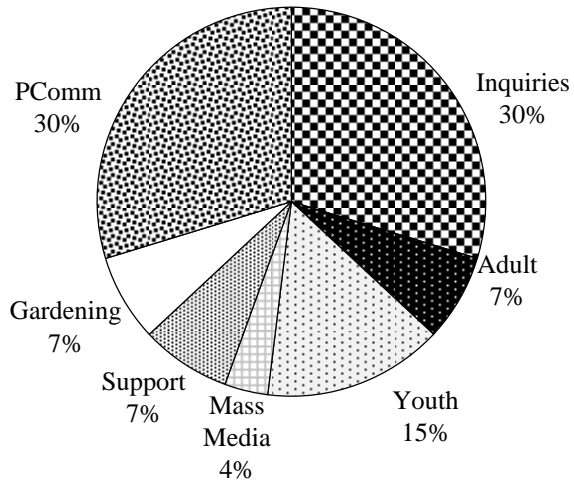
Seneca County Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) receives a good number of inquiries each month that are directed to the community horticulture program. Paid personnel have limited time to address these questions given demands from other projects so a hotline was started to tap Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) time and expertise. The MGV help in this area two days a week from April to October Seneca County CCE hoped to raise awareness about their availability to provide up to date, research based information to help citizens with their home and garden questions. It seems to be working as people are saying they called because they heard about the hotline from others.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

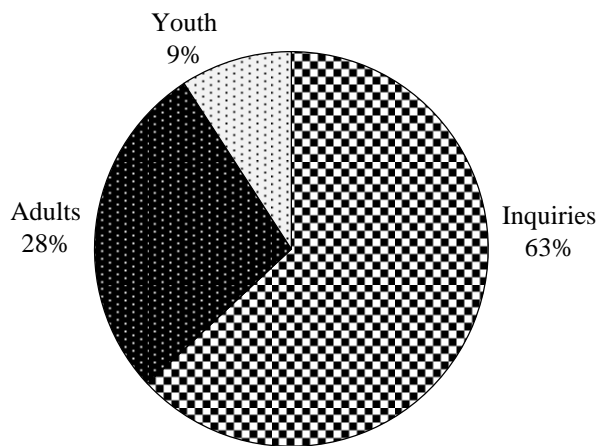
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Schoharie County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts

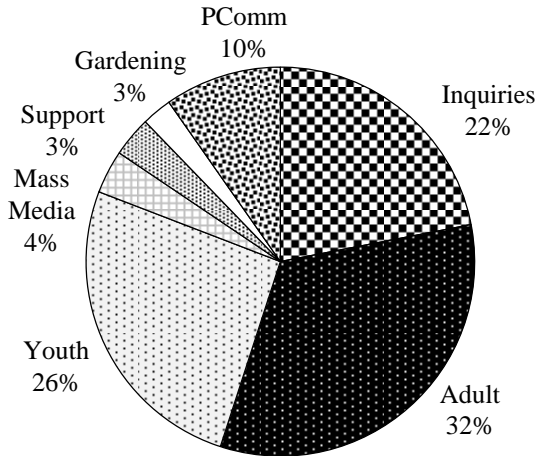


**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

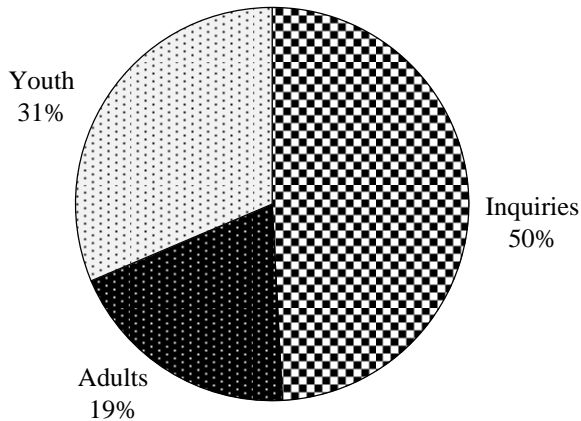
Least Populated Counties (<102,000 residents)

Yates County

Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' activity



Distribution of Master Gardener Volunteers' direct contacts



Program Highlight

Yates County Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers have sparked an interest at the Keuka Lake School and children, teachers and parents have gained a lifetime's worth of knowledge. How? Through a once to twice a week school garden project with pre-school, special-needs and Head Start children that uses accessible raised beds. The beds grew prolifically and the children are learning about planting, maintaining, harvesting and eating. No chemicals are used in the garden and insect diversity and benefits are important elements in their lessons. Success is clear for when the gardeners show up they need to have a system for taking turns because everyone wants to be involved. It is clear the MGV are adored and the children are encouraging home gardening, eating vegetables and loving it.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension
January 2007 - December 2007**

Additional CCE Community Horticulture Volunteers

County	new volunteers	active volunteers	hours of service	Value of volunteers
Onondaga				
CommuniTree Stewards	34	83	1,070	\$19,025
Tompkins				
Citizen Pruners	9	15	1,440	\$25,603
Master Composter	16	38	2,768	\$49,215
Beautification Brigade	12	15	4,200	\$74,676
TOTALS	71	151	9,478	\$168,519

CommuniTree Stewards Program Highlight

Onondaga County Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) views community tree planting with bare-root trees as a viable, inexpensive way to increase community forests as well as engage citizens and raise awareness about the value of community forests. Bare-root tree planting is labor intensive and there is just a one week window to get the trees planted so volunteer help is critical. Onondaga County CCE has trained CommuniTree Stewards to have the technical skills to help other volunteers plant the trees correctly and supervise neighborhood volunteers, citizen activists and college students.

Feedback indicates that CommuniTree Stewards favorite activity is community tree planting. The neighborhood association who worked to have the trees planted applauded the volunteers for the help they gave, acknowledging that it would not have happened without them.

Master Composters Program Highlight

A Festival Composting program to reduce the mountains of waste from entering landfills was initiated by Master Composters at Tompkins County Cornell Cooperative Extension. This has proved to be a valuable service to community festival organizers who have put minimal effort into recycling or composting the tons of garbage that is generated at a several day event. The Master Composters effort began at the Grassroots Music Festival but has expanded to the Ithaca Festival and Apple Harvest Weekend. These events each draw at least 10,000-20,000 people. The composting effort has also expanded from collecting pre-consumer food waste from food vendors at the event to including post-consumer compostable items. Volunteers have been involved in the system design, outreach to food vendors, education about what is compostable and in collecting materials and managing the on-site compost bins. Volunteers have taken full responsibility for the composting and educating others in the process as they are seen scurrying about with their buckets full of food waste. In 2007, Cayuga Compost became involved in the Festival Composting efforts. With their large scale professional composting system, Master Composters are able to collect even more compostable items and diverted over 5 tons of compostable items from the landfill. In addition to the actual composting, volunteers talked to festival goers the entire time. Although an exact number of conversations are ever-elusive, they believe they might have talked to more than 1,000 people about composting. With all of the composting going on, and the shift towards Zero Waste, many people noticed - including the local media for ran a feature article about the efforts.