



**Cumberland County Master Gardener Association**  
**Norm Steele Memorial**  
**Seed Grant Application 2024**

Master Gardener Volunteers are invited to apply for the Norm Steele Memorial Seed Grant through the Cumberland County Master Gardener Association (CCMGA). Norm was in the first Cumberland County Master Gardener Class. For over 25 years, Norm's passion for helping others was demonstrated with countless volunteer hours and an estimated 12,000 pounds of produce donated to the Maine Harvest for Hunger Program. Norm passed away in June 2013, leaving an amazing legacy. The CCMGA has named the Seed Grant program in his honor because Norm exemplified what it means to be a Master Gardener Volunteer: he taught, inspired and shared so much with so many.

The Cumberland County Master Gardeners Associations' mission is to support Master Gardeners involved in horticulture projects through educational opportunities, association with other gardeners, volunteering on community service-related projects, and sharing knowledge and expertise with the public.

It is ***strongly recommended*** that Master Gardener Volunteer applicants attend the Seed Grant Info Session via Zoom, who are interested in applying, have questions, or need assistance with completing their application on **Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:00 pm**. Zoom link: <https://maine.zoom.us/j/83213565826>

**Guidelines for Seed Grant Applications**

1. Statewide the Master Gardener Volunteers program has placed an emphasis on garden-related activities in the area of education and food security. Examples of projects within these priority areas include promoting environmentally friendly garden practices (e.g., pollinator gardens, native plantings), growing produce for donation through the Harvest for Hunger program, educating youth and adults, and working with underserved populations. Further project examples can be found here: <https://extension.umaine.edu/cumberland/map-points-category/all-mgv-projects/>
2. The funds can be used to launch a new project or to sustain an existing horticultural related project located in Cumberland County. The project must be for the benefit of a community, school, or non-profit organization in which the Master Gardener is actively involved.
3. The grant can be used for equipment, supplies, and/or educational materials related to a horticultural project. Grants fund purchases can be made only through University approved vendors with a purchase order completed by the UMaine Cooperative Extension in Cumberland County. **Grant funds must be expended by September 30, 2024.**

4. Applicants must request a specific dollar amount. In the past grants have ranged from \$50 to \$800. The amount of money distributed in any cycle is dependent on the number of applicants and dollars available in the CCMGA budget (raised by the plant sale and other activities). Applicants of ongoing projects may apply in subsequent years after the first grant. All applicants are encouraged to seek funding and contributed materials within their own communities. There is no guarantee that all requests will be partially or fully funded.
5. Grant recipients will be required to submit a brief summary of the impact of receiving the Seed Grant funds as well as any relevant photos and testimonials, documenting the progress of the project. Because of the educational benefits from learning about successful community projects in which Master Gardeners are involved, each recipient is encouraged to describe the project at the Cumberland County Master Gardener Volunteer Harvest Celebration.

**Eligibility:** Any active Cumberland County Master Gardener Volunteer, who is enrolled in the current year and up to date on volunteer hours, may apply for funds to support an approved Master Gardener Volunteer Project.

**Review:** The Cumberland County Master Gardeners Association board members will review Grant requests. Successful applicants will meet all the grant requirements and reflect the mission of the Cumberland County Master Gardeners Association. Grant applicants will be notified by February 2, 2024 about the status of their application and recipients will be announced at the Master Gardener Annual Meeting in April.

**Approved Vendors:** Grant items must be purchased from University Approved Vendors; only University staff may make these purchases. Therefore, we will need to coordinate with recipients ahead of time to drop off these materials at their project site. Generally, we receive anywhere from 10% to 20% off materials due to the amount of purchasing the University does every year. We can also add new vendors by having the business fill out a Request Form, but this can take several weeks to process. Grant funds may not be used to reimburse grant recipients for items purchased outside this process.

**Other:** Cumberland County Master Gardener Association must be acknowledged in all publicity related to the project.

**Application Submission:** Please submit your application to Mary Wicklund at the UMaine Cooperative Extension in Cumberland County, either as an electronic or paper copy, or via Google Form. Applications can be emailed to [mary.wicklund@maine.edu](mailto:mary.wicklund@maine.edu). A paper copy can be mailed to the address below.

ATTN: Mary Wicklund  
UMaine Cooperative Extension  
75 Clearwater Drive, Suite 104  
Falmouth, Maine 04105

**Application Deadline:** Applications are **due on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.**

**Cumberland County Master Gardener Association  
2024 Seed Grant Application**

**Please complete the following questions to be considered for the 2024 Master Gardener Seed Grant:**

Date:

MGV Contact Name:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Project Name and Location (e.g. Smiling Hill Farm, Scarborough):

What is the targeted population and geographical area covered by this project:

Is your project already established or just getting started?

Have you previously applied for this grant for this particular project? (circle one) YES or NO

Who are the other Master Gardener Volunteers (if any) involved with this project?



**1. Project Description:** (one to two paragraphs):

**2. How is this project funded/supported by other local organizations in the community?**

**3. How do you and other volunteers engage members of the community in this project (*e.g. organize community potlucks or regular work days*)?**

**4. How does your project benefit the community and what are the desired outcomes? How do you and other volunteers plan to achieve them? *(Please be as detailed as possible)***

**5. How do you plan to sustain the project in the future *(e.g. build community partnerships, grow your own seedlings, secure future funding)*?**

**6. Is there anything else you would like to add? *(optional)***

**THANK YOU!**

*The Master Gardener Volunteer Program is a national program and in Maine is part of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. The overall objective of the Master Gardener Program is to educate home gardeners, address community efforts related to horticulture and support the educational mission of the UMaine Extension. The mission of the UMaine Extension is to help Maine people improve their lives through an educational process that uses research-based knowledge focused on issues and needs.*