

May 15, 2020

A message from Mary Wilson, EMG State Program Coordinator

Dear Extension Master Gardeners:

I hope you and your families are safe and enjoying gardening activities at home. Even though the volunteer hours requirement for 2020 has been suspended, I have received several requests from EMGs who wish to work on their approved on-site volunteer projects. Your passion and dedication to your projects continues to be nothing short of phenomenal — thank you! While many of you may be anxious about your EMG volunteer projects, I received notification today that, at this time, **we must postpone on-site EMG volunteering until after May 28, to align with the governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order.** Consequently, there is **no approved EMG on-site volunteering until after May 28.** *(Please understand that if the governor's executive order is extended beyond May 28, we must abide by this extension.)* I understand that this news is disappointing, but our number one goal continues to be keeping you, your family and friends safe.

In the meantime, please:

1. Complete any remaining work plans for 2020 either individually or by online group meetings.
2. Ensure your project is an MSU Extension approved project.
3. Obtain written permission from the property owner to allow EMGs to volunteer on their property, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. *(Without this permission, volunteering on these sites as an MSU Extension Master Gardener cannot occur.)*
4. Know that EMG in-person meetings and activities must be moved to a virtual experience, postponed or cancelled until September 1, per university guidelines. This includes, but is not limited to, association meetings, project meetings, bus trips, plant sales, etc.

I appreciate your ongoing patience through this challenging time.

Thank you and continue to stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely, Mary

Mary A. Wilson, State Program Coordinator
MSU Extension Master Gardener Program