

Minnesota State Horticultural Society (MSHS) Legislative Funding Request

For over 150 years, the Minnesota State Horticultural Society (MSHS) has been at the heart of Minnesota's gardening community. Whether supporting home gardeners, urban farmers, or community greening initiatives, MSHS provides resources that make gardening more accessible, sustainable, and impactful for Minnesotans across all regions. Through our educational programs, Northern Gardener magazine, and hands-on initiatives, we connect people to the land, helping them grow food, strengthen communities, and build a greener Minnesota.

Our Impact

- **[Northern Gardener Magazine](#):** A trusted quarterly publication for USDA Zones 3–5, delivering expert gardening knowledge to thousands of Minnesotans.
- **[Garden-in-a-Box Program](#):** Provides beginner-friendly gardening kits to schools and community organizations, improving food security and offering a STEM-aligned learning tool.
- **[Minnesota Green Program](#):** Rescues surplus plants from nurseries and wholesalers, distributing them to community gardens to promote sustainability and accessibility.
- **The Tool Shed – Launching April 2025:** Supported by a USDA grant, The Tool Shed will be a central hub for gardeners of all levels, featuring zone-specific resources, translated materials, guidance on starting a garden, permitting connections, a calendar of events, and case studies of successful urban gardening efforts. **Get a sneak peek of [The Tool Shed here](#).**
- **Education & Outreach:** Online and in-person training sessions for home gardeners, educators, and urban farmers.
- **Public Engagement & Events:**
 - **Minnesota State Fair:** we have a booth and educational display in the Agriculture/Horticulture Building, plus we the Plant Show in the Flower Wing the first two days of the fair.
 - **Minneapolis Home & Garden Show:** hosting the Green Thumb Theater and an interactive booth since 1974.
- **Community Greening Initiatives:** Supporting schools, community gardens, and urban agriculture projects statewide.

The Legislative Ask

- Secure ongoing inclusion of MSHS in the state budget with an annual increase to \$100,000 in FY26 and \$110,000 in FY27.
- Expand access to gardening education and urban agriculture resources for all Minnesotans.
- Strengthen sustainability efforts in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

Why This Matters

- **Home & Community Gardening Access:** Expanding resources for beginner and experienced gardeners alike.
- **Urban Agriculture Growth:** Strengthening food production in urban areas to support healthy, local food systems.
- **Food Security & Equity:** Gardening solutions for low-income families to improve nutrition and self-sufficiency.
- **Climate Adaptation & Sustainability:** Teaching sustainable horticultural practices that build resilience.
- **Minnesota's Green Future:** Preserving and expanding a statewide legacy of gardening and environmental stewardship.

MSSH has a proven track record of strengthening communities through gardening, sustainability, and food security. *View our full impact in the latest [MSSH Impact Report](#).*

Contact

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