



Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,
News and Education

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Coordinators' Comments

At the National Master Gardener Coordinators meeting held in Lisle, IL in June 2006— an important session focused on liability issues for Master Gardener programs. Master Gardener programs were urged to develop policies which protect volunteers while they are acting in an official capacity as a Master Gardener volunteer. Volunteer job descriptions are vital components of this protection as they form the basis of all subsequent management components; they form a “contractual” agreement between the organization and the volunteer and they are critical for effective risk management.

Many programs around the state have job descriptions in place for their volunteers. If your group does not— it may be time to consider writing them. I would suggest writing very specific descriptions for each job needed to complete a project. For example, a job description for the “Garden Walk Ticket Sales Co-Chairperson” would be more helpful than simply a general job description for a “Master Gardener volunteer”. The more information you include up front— the better prepared volunteers will be to take on the responsibilities of the job.

Think of a job description as a “snapshot” of a job. The job description needs to communicate clearly & concisely what responsibilities & task the jobs entail & to indicate, as well, the key qualifications of the job— the basic requirements & if possible, the attributes that underlie superior performance. Don't rely solely on a job's history as you put together a job description. Focus instead on what the job needs to be in light of the organizations' current needs and long term objectives. A well written job description consists of more than a laundry list of task & responsibilities— it reflects a sense of priorities. And lastly— the job you describe must be doable— make sure you create a job that is feasible & attractive to the volunteers.

The state advisory committee is working on a template for job descriptions which will soon be available on the state website. The coming winter season would be a good time for you as volunteers to sit down with your local coordinator and evaluate your projects and help in the creation of job descriptions.

Happy holidays to all- Monica David

Fall Checklist for Master Gardeners

- * Tally up those volunteer and continuing education hours for 2006 and report them to your local Master Gardener Coordinator before the end of the year.
- * Time to think about your continuing education hours for 2007. Watch the *Imagine* for classes and workshops to attend. Remember to check with your local coordinator if you are not sure if an event will qualify— do this BEFORE you attend an event.
- * It is also time to sign those volunteer agreements for 2007— make it easy on your local coordinator so they don't have to chase you down to get a signature.
- * Begin a dialogue on a budget for your programs for next year (and the following year!) You can help to outline expenses for your projects and then sit down with your local coordinator and County Director to discuss the budget.
- * Consider signing up for Pesticide Applicator Training. Remember if you apply any type of pesticide in a public area you must be licensed. To obtain a license, you will need to take the General Standards exam to become an “operator”. However, at least one person from your county will need to go one step further and become an “applicator”. For licensing information call the IDA at 800-641-3934. If you wish to register for the classes or tests or to receive study material call 800-644-2123.
- * Evaluate this years projects. Help your coordinator write job descriptions for all committee positions.
- * Consider writing an application for the National Search for Excellence Awards.
- * **Celebrate your successes! Congratulate new interns who have completed their hours and reached active status.**

Important Dates

December 2 & 3: University of Illinois Poinsettia Open House, Plant Sciences Lab Lobby, 1201 S. Dorner Dr., Urbana, IL. Come and join the Greenhouse Management Class to see a wide variety of poinsettias that have been grown in their greenhouses. The students will show new ways to decorate with these festive plants. Hours: Dec 2–10 am to 3pm, Dec. 3 1 to 3 pm. Contact Daniel Warnock with questions– dwarnock@uiuc.edu

January 17-19: MidAm Trade Show and Workshops McCormick Place, Chicago, IL. www.midam.org

January 20: Herb Day, Urbana Holiday Inn. 217-333-7738.

January 20: 4th Annual Gardening Show, Washington Township Middle School, 381 East State Road 2, Valparaiso, Indiana. The keynote speaker will be Mike Nowak, host of Chicago's WGN radio, "Let's Talk Gardening". Two demonstrations will be offered- "What it Takes to Build a Garden" by James Hitz, Taltree Arboretum & Gardens and "Cooking with Herbs" by Chef John Rooney of *The Culinary Connection*. This gardening show will also include a seed & bulb exchange; photography contest; juried flower show and exhibitors of all things gardening. Admission is \$5. A lodging package is available at the nearby Fairfield Inn. Look for updates and contest guidelines at <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/Porter>

January 23 & 24: Southern Grounds Maintenance School, Gateway Center, Collinsville, IL. 618-650-7050.

January 27: A Winter Day in the Garden, Zwermann Theatre, Lincoln Trail College, Robinson, IL. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Doors open at 8 a.m. Several GREAT speakers are lined up. Registration fee is \$35 and includes coffee/ snacks and lunch. Late registration fee \$40 after Jan. 9th. Sponsored by the Crawford County Master Gardeners and LTC. 618-546-1549. Flyer and registration form can be found at: web.extension.uiuc.edu/crawford/ under the horticulture & environment tab after Nov 30th.

March 3: St. Louis Garden Symposium, St. Louis Community College Meramec, 11333 Big Bend Boulevard, Kirkwood, Mo. 63122. Dan Heims, founder and president of Terra Nova Nurseries will present "Up Close and Personal Garden Border Combinations" and a second keynote address by Paul Cappiello will feature "Smart Tree Selections for Downsized Home Landscapes". Workshops topics include garden pathways, winter interest, art in the garden, tropicals and herbs. The day concludes with a third

keynote session by Richard Hartlage on "Big Effects for Small Spaces". The day also features container garden demos, and a sales area. Pre registration with lunch before Feb 23 is \$75 (on-site cost without lunch is \$85). 314-487-4995 or info@hortco-op.org.

March 10: Home Lawn and Garden Day 2007, Central Catholic High School, Bloomington, IL. Speakers, classes, door prizes, lunch and snacks included. Sponsored by the McLean County Master Gardeners. 309-663-8306.

2007 Training Sites*

Location	Starting Date
Bloomington	January 24
Charleston	January 17
Chicago Botanic Garden	January 24
Decatur/Springfield	January 25
Edwardsville cluster	January 16
Freeport	January 26
Galesburg	January 10
Garfield Park Conservatory	January 22
Joliet	January 23
Mt. Vernon	January 18
Oakwood	January 29
Quincy	January 11
Rockford	January 9
St. Charles	January 8
Wheaton	January 10
Woodstock	January 12

* Please contact your local coordinator to attend these classes. Times, topics and locations are listed on the state website at www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/trainingschd.html

Chairperson's Chat

More lawn anyone?

The Garden Writers Association Foundation keeps the pulse on gardening trends in America. Based on survey data from the spring of 2006, they reported the following trends in attitudes among gardeners:

- Better mental health, nutrition, or fitness is the primary reason 36% of household's garden.
- More perennial and vegetables are the leading additions households plan to make to their gardens.
- The number of consumers planning to increase the size of their lawn areas rose by 5%.
- Manure is the most frequently planned means of fertilizing gardens and container plants.

My biggest surprise in this survey is the 5% of people who are increasing the size of their lawns. Where are they going to put the additional perennials and vegetables? What about the national tree deficit (<http://www.americanforests.org/graytogreen/treedeficit/>)? What about the additional water, fertilizer and mowing time that more lawn will require? What are these people thinking? Why are they increasing lawns?

For the last 20 years, lawns have been replaced by perennials and annuals that add the zing bam pow that gardeners want. The surging interest in native plants has caused some homeowners to seed native prairies in parts of their landscape. Not to mention attracting birds and butterflies by using nectar producing plants, this does not include turf. People wanting 'low maintenance landscapes' have been removing lawn and replacing it with broad borders of understory trees and shrubs fronted by swaths of blooming perennials. The trend for 'outdoor rooms' built upon decks or hardscapes have further reduced the size of our lawns.

So what's happening with those 5% who are increasing their lawn areas? More turf likely means less of something else. It is too soon to tell but what if people are turning away from a low maintenance landscape, abounding with ornamental plantings, to get back to the basics of turf and the healthy workout a good mowing in mid-summer can provide?

This is a small trend for now. But like all other trends, it is of significance for Extension and Master Gardeners. It is our job to be there with the right information at the right time, to provide others with the information *they* need to be successful and prudent in their gardening endeavors. So keep your eyes and ears open, and let's be ready..

 Barbara Bates, MG Advisory Committee Chairperson

Junior Master Gardener® Partners with Weekly Reader

The Junior Master Gardener® program is proud to announce a new national program in conjunction with Weekly Reader! Weekly Reader is an engaging classroom magazine that is geared toward making learning fun for grades Pre-K to 12 and includes periodicals on science, reading, health, social studies and language arts.

The Junior Master Gardener® program is promoting an educational outreach program that will be featured in the November 10th edition of Weekly Reader. This project will include all of the 57,000 3rd and 4th grade classrooms across the United States (about 1.3



million children) that subscribe to Weekly Reader. On November 6, 2006 classrooms will begin receiving:

1. Information regarding the JMG® program
2. Teacher activity guide
3. JMG® educational poster
4. Information about a national gardening contest promoting America's Anniversary Garden

As a part of this project, JMG® has also partnered with America's Anniversary Garden program to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in the Americas. To commemorate this milestone, Virginia Extension has created the America's Anniversary Garden Competition to help individuals, communities and groups to mark this anniversary with a signature garden planting. All signature gardens will have red, white and blue as their color schemes and can be of any shape, size and location. JMG® will celebrate this endeavor with a national school garden competition promoted thru Weekly Reader. Junior Master Gardener®, America's Anniversary Garden and Weekly Reader are working collaboratively to promote and implement this contest. This would be a great opportunity for schools, Master Gardener groups and 4-H programs to participate in JMG® and enter the national gardening contest. JMG® will provide curriculum, cash awards and gardening supplies for the national winners. Contest entries are due by February 1, 2007 with winners announced on March 1, 2007.

Please visit www.jmgkids.us/gardencontest and <http://www.americasanniversary.com> for information.

Focus on Peoria County Master Gardeners

Gardening Plays in Peoria

Peoria County Master Gardeners continue to serve and share their talent and interest of gardening with the community. Projects range from therapy gardening with mentally handicapped clients at Parc and the elderly at the county nursing home Bel-Wood. The gardeners participate at their ICC Demonstration Garden, Jubilee Herb Garden, Luthy Botanical Garden and Plant a Row for the Hungry Garden. Gardening education is stressed on the radio, in the monthly newsletter, with the Horticulture Help Line and with the Speakers Bureau when requested. Gardeners also help youth in the garden at the County Youth Farm, and with urban renewal as part of West Peoria's Greenway Project.

Parc (Peoria Association for Retarded Citizens) Enabling Garden Project offers gardening experiences for individuals with developmental disabilities. A team of over 15 Master Gardeners and Parc volunteers and staff, work in unison to create opportunities for these individuals to experience the sights, sounds, smells and tactile sensations of gardening. Time and care is taken to combine form and function into the garden design, utilizing plants in the program with which the participants can expect reasonable success. Master Gardeners have donated supplies and materials along with time and knowledge to this project. Angela Zimmerman, chairman of this project, accepted the State Teamwork Award for her team.

"In the Garden" has been a great project for our county. It was a radio program on WMBD. The program had a weekly topic, was hosted by two area Master Gardeners and would take call in questions from listeners. This had been a regular program for the past five and half years and had a great impact on the community. The show aired every Saturday from 6am to 8am. A group of fifteen Master Gardeners served as hosts. The program has recently been canceled because of the radio station's program changes but hopes to sprout again in another venue.

The **Illinois Central College MG Demonstration Garden** is highlighted at the ICC Landscaping and Garden Day each Sept. Gardeners from Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford Counties plan, plant, maintain and label this garden with great care. They host this event with a booth including displays on other county projects, and information handouts. They also serve as garden hosts and answer gardening questions.

Youth Farm is an Extension project. Master Gardeners have been helping with the Friday morning gardening sessions. The youth enjoy the interaction with the gardeners and take pride in acquiring new skills. The boys have expanded upon their gardening knowledge by learning to cook with the produce and are also learning to sell at a local farmers market.

Plant a Row for the Hungry joined forces for the first time with Green View Nursery. The nursery helped with a new garden site, plants & seeds, and public relations. Five different TV spots aired to inform the public on the need for produce at local soup kitchens. Several newspaper articles also addressed the need for sharing the community's garden harvest. The Peoria MG's have donated the garden's harvest for the past six seasons. It was great to see the community join this year's campaign.

In 2006 sixty three Master Gardeners have been serving Peoria County through a wide variety of projects; from speaking engagements, demonstrations, growing and donation of garden produce, writing for the newsletter and helping with the administration of the various programs. As each gardener shares their time and talents, there is no doubt that "Gardening Plays in Peoria".

 Lynn Webb, Peoria Master Gardener Coordinator

Emerald Ash Borer Management

The emerald ash borer has been confirmed in several NE Illinois locations this summer. Phil Nixon, Extension Entomologist, has just released an entomology fact sheet regarding management of this pest. Please remember that efforts to manage this pest on a large scale are primarily being conducted by federal and state agencies. Any suspect cases should be reported to the IL. Department of Agriculture. There are still many unanswered questions concerning control, including the effectiveness of insecticidal control. The only certain method to control the emerald ash borer is to remove the tree. **At this time, we are only recommending preventatively treating ash trees no more than 10-12 miles from known infestations.** Research is ongoing to determine if treating trees with insecticide will increase tree survival or if it is just delaying death of the trees. There are several chemicals on the market which are registered as control options. However, due to the chances of drift and the specialized equipment needed, applications are best handled by certified arborists. Please take a few moments and read the entire fact sheet which is posted on our website at www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg



2007 International Master Gardener Conference

Celebrate Gardening in the Natural State!

May 2-5, 2007
Little Rock, Arkansas

The University of Arkansas and Arkansas Master Gardeners invite you to visit the Natural State in May, which is a delightful, gentle month when the gardens are approaching their peak. They will treat you to warm hospitality, fun and educational activities and the chance to relax and enjoy the company of fellow gardeners.

The conference will be hosted at the Peabody Hotel/Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock, May 2-5, 2007. Come early and stay late to enjoy some real Southern hospitality. There is so much to see and do in Arkansas, from the Delta—with its cotton, rice and blues—to the Ozarks and Ouachitas, with their unique mountain music, gardens and culture.

Hotel Reservations: The Peabody Hotel is now accepting conference registrations. The IMG conference rate is \$130/night for double or king accommodations with double occupancy. There are also some club level rooms blocked off at the rate of \$160/night (includes continental breakfast, hot hors d'oeuvres, evening cordials and petit fours, complete honor bar, complimentary use of the athletic club, valet parking, express check-out and VIP nightly turndown services). These rates are good from April 30 to May 6, 2007. Be sure to mention that you are with the IMGC to receive the special rate. Phone: 501-906-4000 or www.peabodylittlerock.com

Conference Registration: Basic conference registration is \$225. Tours are an additional fee. Early registration runs until December 31, 2006. Regular registration (\$275) runs from January 2 to April 1, 2007- the final registration deadline. There will be no on-site or late registrations. One day registrations will be accepted March 1-April 1 as space allows. You may choose to register online (<http://mg2007.uaex.edu>) using a credit card or mail in your registration form with a check.

Keynote Speakers: The conference planners have lined up six extraordinary keynote speakers as well as dozens of excellent breakout class sessions. Here is a brief introduction to the keynote speakers and their topics.

- * **David A Lipschitz**, MD, PhD, Director of the Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging at the University of Arkansas. Dr. David is author of *Breaking the Rules of Aging* & will introduce his core philosophy for lifelong health, highlight the key elements of successful aging and debunk the negative stereotypes of senior living.
- * **P. Allen Smith** is the award winning garden designer and host of the public television show “P. Allen Smith Garden Home”. One of Americas most recognized garden design experts, Allen’s mission is to “help people create beautiful living spaces that blur the lines between indoors and outdoors”.
- * **Jo Luck** is President and CEO of the Heifer Project International and former Executive Director of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. Heifer International has grown to become a \$95 million organization which promotes sustainable agriculture world-wide and has assisted more than 8.4 million families in 25 countries.
- * **George Anderson** has devoted much of his working life to the training and education of horticulturists. From 1983 to 2004, he was head of The School of Horticulture at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. Since his retirement in 2004, George has shared his gardening knowledge thru the popular BBC gardening series “Beechgrove Garden”.
- * **Tina Marie Wilcox** is the head gardener and herbalist at the Ozark Folk Center’s Heritage Herb Garden in Mountain View, Arkansas. Tina tends the extensive gardens, plans and coordinates annual events and workshops as well as facilitating production of plants, seed and herbal products. She is best know as the “The Widder Wilcox of Rattle Snake Ridge” which brings alive Ozark history.
- * **Wayne Pianta** is a Product Technical Specialist at Pan American Seeds. Since the 1990s he has worked with botanical gardens as well as trial gardens to develop and test new ornamental plant varieties. His experiences ranges from teaching and administering the Horticulture program at Tyler Junior College to his work as a Horticulturist for the Texas Extension Service.

Spring Classes Offered in U of I Hort Bachelors Program in Chicago

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign was excited to offer its first classes this fall in the B.S. Horticulture Degree Completion Program in Chicago. The new degree completion program will allow students to continue from an associates degree to earn a bachelors degree. The program's goals are to prepare students for careers in production, marketing, management and use of horticultural flower, landscape and food crops; in teaching, research or other related professional activity; as preparation for graduate studies or advanced professional training; or in a business providing services related to horticultural crops.

Classes may be taken by both degree seeking and non-degree seeking students. Classes will focus on horticulture production and management and will utilize tenure-track faculty and well qualified adjunct faculty. The following classes will be offered in Spring 2007:

Class	Site	Times
Floral Design (3 hours)	CBG ¹	Weds. 6-9 pm* & Sat. 10-2 pm (3-31,4/7, 4/14)
Woody Landscape Plants II (3 hours)	Morton Arboretum	Tuesdays 5-8 pm & Sat. 10-Noon & 1-4 pm (2/17, 3/3, 3/31, 4/28)
Landscape Contracting (3 hrs)	CBG ¹	Wed. 6-9 pm** & Sat. 10-2 pm (1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17)
Residential Design I (4 hours)	Oakbrook Center	Thursdays 6-9 pm.
Residential Design II (3 hours)	Oakbrook Center	Thursdays 6-9 pm.

¹Chicago Botanic Garden
* starting 3/28 for 8 weeks
** starting 1/24 for 8 weeks

Non-degree seeking students should go to www.outreach.uiuc.edu to register as a student and locate course descriptions.

Degree-seeking students can go to <https://apps.uillinois.edu/selfservice/> -where all ADMITTED students may register.

For information about the UIUC B.S. Hort degree program contact:

Greg Pierceall, professor 217-722-2109
Heather Miller-Outreach Dir. 217-265-6568

International Search for Excellence Awards

The Search for Excellence is the recognition program for Master Gardener volunteer work throughout the United States and Canada. Search for Excellence has seven categories in which Master Gardeners can demonstrate their outstanding contributions to their communities. All SFE applications must show that significant learning took place, whether by the Master Gardeners or the general public they were involved with.

Application Guidelines:

1. The project must fit into one of seven categories: youth; demo garden; workshop or hands-on program; community service; innovative projects; special audiences, senior or disabled audiences or Hort Therapy; and other or general accomplishment.
2. The project must have completed one cycle and be worked on over the past two years.
3. This award recognizes group efforts, not individuals.
4. The project must be simple to replicate by other MG groups.
5. A SFE program must be practical, easy to use and fit well for the situation it is intended for.
6. The project should be original and creative.
7. The project should be compatible with Extension and MG missions.

SFE application information may be downloaded from the International MG conference website at <http://mg2007.uaex.edu>

The application should be written by the Master Gardeners involved, not by Extension staff. However, a verification letter from your MG coordinator will be required. If you plan to submit an application, discuss the application first with your local MG Coordinator and then contact Monica David, Illinois MG Coordinator before submission. **The deadline for submission to the committee is February 1, 2007.**

SFE winners will be expected to prepare a poster and give a 3 minute talk about the project at the International Master Gardener conference in Little Rock, May 2-5, 2007. In 2005, Illinois Master Gardener projects from Vermilion and Champaign counties both received SFE awards. In other words, 2 of 7 awards went to Illinois Master Gardeners— a hard precedent to follow but let's give it a try!

For questions about the SFE awards contact Barbara Stendahl at 651-480-7727 (email stend004@umn.edu) or Leanne Moorman at 302-564-3805 (email LKMoorman@mail.wvu.edu).

Extension Master Gardener Logo & Slogan Contest

Logo & Slogan Contest Invitation

The Extension Master Gardener program will be 35 years old in 2007, and as part of that celebration you are invited to submit an original logo design and slogan for the organization's communication and visual identity.

The Extension Master Gardener Program needs a "National" logo for the national website and to demonstrate national collaboration and recognition of all Master Gardener programs. As eXtension is developed, the logo and slogan will be utilized with new standardized curriculum.

This partnership will signify the cooperation of all State Master Gardener Programs. We will use this identification for marketing and promotion of a national unified program. Likely, state and local logos will still be utilized, and you will have the option of adding the International logo and slogan. The new logo and the title will be trademarked and protected.

The Extension Master Gardener Program is a platform for each state partner to share materials and thereby increase the availability of information for volunteers and for Extension personnel to share with the general public.

Guidelines

Submissions of a qualifying nature will be passed on to a panel appointed by the Extension Master Gardener committee. Appropriateness, creativity, originality, aesthetics and the use of space will be used to measure the logo & slogan's merit. The winning logo & slogan will demonstrate the mission and understanding of the Extension Master Gardener Program to the general population.

LOGO SPECIFICATIONS

- Logos must be legible, simple and clear.
- Logos must be effective in black and white and in color.
- Both grayscale and color versions must be submitted.
- Logos should be no more than two Pantalone colors plus black.
- Logos must be scalable as it will be used on websites, stationary and banners.
- Submit high resolution images 640 x 480 dpi.
- File format must be JPG, eps or Illustrator on a CD-ROM.
- Logo and slogan should relate.

Submit logo and slogan as separate files.

SLOGAN SPECIFICATIONS

- Slogan should be appropriate and must reflect the mission of the Extension Master Gardener Program.
- Slogan should be short and to the point.
- Slogan should relate with logo.

Submit slogan and logo as separate files.

PRIZE

Registration and lodging at the 2007 International Master Gardener conference held in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 2 through May 5, 2007.

DEADLINE FOR JUDGEMENT

Entries will be accepted beginning October 15th and the contest will close on February 15th (postmark deadline). The committee will judge the entries and select the winner by March 1, 2007. The winner will be announced at the 2007 International Master Gardener conference.

SUBMISSION

Art submitted to the contest will not be returned to the artist. More than one original art piece can be entered per Master Gardener.

Please mail all submissions to:

Kerrie B. Badertscher, CPH

Western Area Specialist, Horticulture

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

5305 Mill Street

Reno, NV 89502

Phone: 775.784.4848 ext 125; Fax: 775.784.4881 or

Email: badertscherk@unce.unr.edu

EZregs

EZregs is a new website (www.ezregs.uiuc.edu) designed by Extension educators to help identify state and federal environmental regulations that pertain to specific agricultural and horticultural operations and practices in Illinois. *EZregs* is intended for homeowners, extension educators, crop and livestock producers, green-industry professionals, land-use planners, builders, and rural neighbors to farm operations. This is an expert database (not a search engine) that links frequently asked questions to specific state and federal regulations. Questions are supplied and maintained by authors familiar with the regulations and the user's needs, allowing the author to supply an interpretation, add links to useful external information and identify legal definitions. Current authors include Bruce Paulsrud, Scott Bretthauer, Ted Funk and Randy Fonner.

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Edited by

Monica David

Illinois Master Gardener Coordinator

University of Illinois Extension

1201 S. Dorner Drive

Urbana, IL. 61801

217-265-5256

modavid@uiuc.edu

Website: www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/

Visit the Illinois Master Gardener website: <http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg>



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College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

University of Illinois Master Gardener Office
Department of Natural Resources and
Environmental Sciences
1201 S. Dorner Drive
Urbana, IL. 61801

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