

IMPACT

 University of Idaho
Cooperative
Extension System

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Banana Belt Horticulture Seminar Series

The Situation

Nez Perce County in north central Idaho has an average of 200 growing days and an ideal climate for producing a wide variety of ornamentals, garden crops, and related horticultural endeavors. The fastest growing segment of the area population is citizens over the age of 55 who enjoy growing ornamentals, gardens, and lawns.

Our Response

The University of Idaho/Nez Perce County Horticulture Advisory Committee met in December 1999 to design a series of educational horticulture classes for homeowners and backyard gardeners.

The committee, which is comprised of professional greenhouse/nursery operators, pest control operators, and other professional horticulturists, has functioned in an advisory capacity since 1980.

This year, our office and the committee cooperatively presented the "Banana Belt Horticulture Seminar Series." The seminar addressed care and husbandry of ornamentals and urban horticultural pest control issues.

Achievements

The class provided useful, practical, timely, and effective horticulture information, according to responses from those attending.

Results of a questionnaire presented to the class participants are listed below:

- ◆ A majority, 76%, of those attending rated the Banana Belt Horticulture Seminar as excellent while 24% rated it as good.
- ◆ All participants indicated they would use the seminar information in their business, profession, or on their home grounds.
- ◆ All participants indicated that the seminar was both a good review and that they gained new information from the program.
- ◆ When queried about reasons for attending the seminar:
 - ◆ 64% attended to gain new knowledge about establishment, care, and husbandry of landscape plants.
 - ◆ 28% attended to answer a specific landscape question that had been a recent or ongoing concern.
 - ◆ 8% attended to gain Idaho State Department of Agriculture pesticide license recertification credits.

The Future

Continue to provide beneficial horticultural education programs to the citizens of Nez Perce County. In conclusion, a hearty thank you to the UI/Nez Perce County Horticulture Advisory Committee for working to design and help implement the seminar. Further acknowledgement is also due to those that instructed portions of the horticulture educational series.

 University of Idaho
College of Agriculture

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University of Idaho and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating

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