

IMPACT



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Interstate Team Teaching of Master Gardener Classes Bears Fruit

The Situation

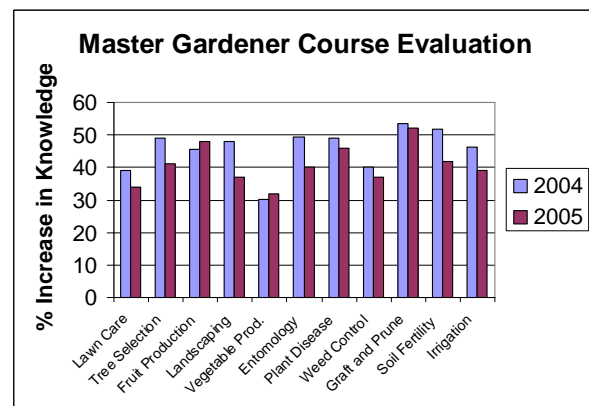
The University of Idaho is currently experiencing a shortage of Extension Educators on the county level. This increases the workload for the remaining Educators. In order to be able to continue to deliver quality programming with less available time new and innovative approaches were needed. The Master Gardening program has enjoyed great success in Idaho. The manpower to deliver this programming is substantial. In order to maintain the quality of the program other resources needed to be developed.

Our Response

The Extension Educators in Southeast Idaho actively involved in Master Gardening and their counterparts in Northern Utah got together in 2004 and discussed ways in which we could effectively combine our abilities in our programming efforts concerning the Master Gardener program. We discovered that areas where some lacked technical expertise were covered by the expertise that other Extension Educators possessed. It became apparent that our various backgrounds and expertise were of a diverse enough nature that by combining forces we would be able to cover the entire course of the Master Gardener program through sharing the teaching responsibilities among the Extension Educators involved.

Program Outcomes

The resulting combined efforts of the Idaho and Utah Extension Educators were that the participants in both states benefited from quality, unbiased, research based material in each of the classes taught. The various classes were taught more in-depth and technical questions brought up by the participants were answered with more depth and breadth. This arrangement also allowed for more time in the busy schedules of each of the Extension Educators involved to accomplish other important aspects of their jobs. The sharing of teaching responsibilities exposed both the Master Gardener participants as well as the Extension Educators in different approaches to teaching the various topics. It also opened the door for further shared program participation between Idaho and Utah Extension Educators.



Other Contributing Faculty:

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