

IMPACT

University of Idaho
Extension

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Regional Horticulture Series Keeps Gardeners Up-To-Date

The Situation

Residents of the Lewiston area enjoy a mild, lengthy growing season. With this environment, they are able to grow a wide variety of garden plants. At the same time, there are many problems that this climate presents.

For this reason, there is a need for current, relevant information that home and commercial horticulturists can use. In 2008, honey bee decline, plant selection, early tree care, pruning ornamentals, pesticide and fertilizer labels and borers of ornamental trees were subject matter areas that needed to be presented.

Our Response

For many years, the Banana Belt Horticulture Series has filled this need. The series has become a regular activity of gardeners in the region. Each year, educators meet with an advisory committee and research the previous year's evaluation forms for ideas on current topics. These evening sessions are very popular.

In 2008, gardeners in Clearwater and Lewis counties indicated a need for topics to be presented in their area, and the Cabin Fever Garden Series was planned to include organic gardening, waterwise gardening and ornamental tree pruning to be presented in Orofino and Kamiah. These sessions were held during the day.

In all, seven classes with 121 participants saw specialists and educators speak about current topics.



Dr. Dan Barney demonstrates proper pruning.

Program Outcomes

On average:

- 81% of participants indicated that they agreed that they received information they could use immediately.
- 89% of participants indicated that they agreed that new and useful information was provided.

Some comments by participants in the programs:

- "I will now be more careful with pesticides to avoid harm to bees"
- "I will now plant more herbs to attract bees"
- "I now know which trees to plant to reduce water requirements"
- "I have a better idea how much water to apply to my trees and when"
- "I learned some good shrubs to use with limited water"

- “I learned how to prune the right way”
- “I learned what to expect when pruning conifers”
- “I learned about water management and conservation”
- “I learned how and when to plant green manure crops”
- “I learned different types of pest management”
- “I learned how to identify symptoms”
- “I now know what those fertilizers numbers mean”
- “I learned to be sure not to plant trees too deep”
- “I always come away from these classes with more knowledge”

Speakers

Dr. Steve Sheppard, Apiculture Scientist
Washington State University

Dr. Dan Barney, Superintendent
UI Sandpoint Research and Extension Center

Dr. Robert Tripepi, Professor, UI Department of
Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences

Dr. Ed Bechinski, University of Idaho Extension
Pest Management

Dave Stephenson, Community Forestry
Coordinator, Idaho Department of Lands

Mike & Joan Mount, Green Things Nursery,
Orofino

Ralph Roseburg, UI Master Gardener

Mary Busch, Horticulture Associate
UI Extension Nez Perce County

For More Information

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