

IMPACT

University of Idaho
Extension

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Master Gardener training in Teton County

The Situation

The dramatic influx of new residents in Teton Valley has put gardening education in high demand. New residents move to Teton Valley from all over the country and other parts of the world. They are interested in growing successful gardens but find our high elevation and short growing season extremely challenging. In addition to new residents, Teton County is home to several large nurseries and landscaping companies. Business owners and employees often participate in the training.

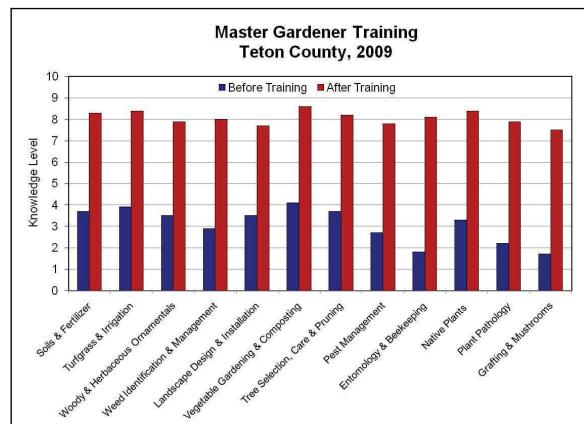
Our Response

In an attempt to provide training relevant to our unique growing conditions we have relied heavily on the knowledge of local experts and Extension Educators. The twelve week course covers a wide range of topics including:

- Soils & Fertilizer
- Turfgrass & Irrigation
- Woody & Herbaceous Ornamentals
- Weed Identification & Management
- Landscape Design & Installation
- Vegetable Gardening & Composting
- Tree Selection, Care & Pruning
- Pest Management
- Entomology & Beekeeping
- Native Plants
- Plant Pathology
- Grafting & Mushrooms
- Food Preservation

Program Outcomes

Thirty-two gardeners completed the training in 2009. One-hundred percent rated the quality of the training as either very good or excellent. Participants were surveyed to determine the increase in knowledge gained. They reported the following:



Master Gardeners are required to fulfill 30 hours of volunteer service to be certified. One of their greatest accomplishments has been the creation and operation of the Driggs Farmers Market. Master Gardeners also organize and teach a Junior Master Gardener 4-H club. This year Master Gardeners are working on several projects including stream-bank restoration a Community Garden and organizing a Garden Club.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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