

IMPACT



University of Idaho
Cooperative
Extension System

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Horticulture is Growing in Southern Idaho!

The situation

Urban horticulture is a going and growing concern in Southern Idaho. Many residents have a strong interest in fruit and vegetable growing and ornamental horticulture. The increased residential building during the past 5 years has increased homesites, most of which are well landscaped. About 50 percent of the phone calls received at the Blaine County Extension Office are questions dealing with horticulture! In 1994 Blaine, Butte, Camas, Cassia, Jerome, Minidoka, and Twin Falls Counties received over 3000 calls for horticultural assistance.

Our response

The University of Idaho has met the challenge by providing personnel who can not only answer the horticulture questions, but can offer programs to develop the beauty of Southern Idaho and the satisfaction of the many gardeners living here.

Some of the programs provided in 1994 dealt with home composting, water-saving techniques in the landscape, pruning ornamental shade trees, weed control and raising perennials.

Since 1988, 180 volunteers have enrolled in and completed the Master Gardener Training Program held in Blaine, Butte, Jerome,

Minidoka and Twin Falls Counties. In 1994, 14 new Master Gardeners were trained in Minidoka County in Rupert and 5 graduated from the Butte County class in Arco. Residents from Gooding, Lemhi, Cassia and Lincoln Counties have also been trained in Master Gardener classes.

Cooperators and co-sponsors

In the spring of 1995, the Idaho Master Gardener Training will be offered in Blaine and Gooding Counties. The program, which offers 30 hours of classroom instruction, trains volunteers to aid Extension personnel in helping the residents of their county with horticulture concerns. In Blaine County one Master Gardener activity, a plant clinic, is in operation from May through August. Every Monday afternoon an Idaho Master Gardener is on hand to answer questions at the clinic in the Extension Office in Hailey.

Achievements

Master Gardeners help others while developing their horticultural expertise. Since 1988 volunteers have contributed over 3000 hours of volunteer work. About one fourth of the volunteers have gone on to complete the Advanced Master Gardener Training. They are active in the plant clinics, volunteer scheduling and training, presenting programs and writing newsletters and articles.



University of Idaho

College of Agriculture

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For more information

Contact your local University of Idaho Cooperative
Extension Office: In Twin Falls, 734-9590, Hailey,
788-5585 and Rupert 436-7184.

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