The Situation
Trustees at the Kootenai County Jail are involved in landscape maintenance and gardening at the facility. They may have some gardening experience, but they have limited access to gardening information or educational opportunities to advance their expertise. They also have very limited funds to purchase fertilizers, seed, and other gardening materials. A trustee who has a love for gardening, especially vegetable gardening, sought help from Extension to develop and grow his garden. Since he had a very limited budget for the garden, he was interested in organic practices. The vegetables he grew would be used in meals for inmates at the facility.

Our Response:
Since 1993, the Extension Master Gardener program assistant has helped the trustee with his gardening questions including those on pest identification and control and production practices. She has visited his garden to help him identify insect pests, weeds, and diseases, and to advise him on production and harvesting practices.

Achievements
This past summer the garden produced an abundance of vegetables which were consumed by inmates. For example, 145 inmates ate corn on the cob from his garden 3 times during the season.

The Future:
The Master Gardener program assistant will help the trustee expand his garden space for next season. She will help him plan and develop the new garden site, and advise him on cover crops, companion plantings, varieties, etc.

For More Information
Vickie J. Parker-Clark
Extension Educator
University of Idaho
Kootenai County Cooperative Extension System
106 E Dalton Ave.
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814
Voice Phone: 208-667-6426
Fax Phone: 208-664-4470

Dorothy Kienke
M.G. Program Assistant
University of Idaho
Kootenai County Cooperative Extension System
106 E Dalton Ave.
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814
Voice Phone: 208-667-6426
Fax Phone: 208-664-4470