

Arizona Cooperative Extension Proposal Requests - Working Group Award

Title: Commercial Horticulture

Program Area(s): Agriculture and Natural Resources

County affiliate(s): Cochise - Rob Call
Gila - Chris Jones
Graham - Randy Norton
La Paz - Eric Norton
Maricopa - Kai Umeda
Maricopa - Terry Mikel
Mohave - Rob Grumbles
Pima - Jack Kelly
Pima - John Begeman
Pinal - Rick Gibson
Yavapai - Jeff Schalauska
Yuma - Kurt Nolte

On-campus or Experiment Station affiliate(s): Plant Sciences - Mary Olsen
Plant Sciences - Ursula Schuch

Lead Faculty: Plant Sciences - Ursula Schuch

This Working Group was previously funded: Yes

University fiscal year: FY2006

Report of Working Group accomplishments (Outputs and Outcomes) from 2006 – 2007:

Cooperative Extension publications produced by members or former members of this working group are "Drip Irrigation", "Mesquite and Palo Verde Trees for the Urban Landscape", "Problems and Pests of Agave, Aloe, Cactus and Yucca". Durable pruning posters that fit table top displays, 15 total, were distributed to working group members. Posters are in English and Spanish and provide guidance for pruning of trees and shrubs.

An in-service training meeting was held in conjunction with the Urban Horticulture Working Group on May 17, 2007 in Tucson. Presentations were given to inform members on plant viruses of vegetables, vegetable seedlings, and ornamentals, on lessons from the freeze in January 2007 that affected especially the lower desert communities, and a resource updates for horticulturists. CD-ROMS on Desert Landscaping and on Drip Irrigation were made available to working group members.

This Working Group is connected to a state-wide initiative: No

Which one?

Budget amount requested (up to \$2,000.00): \$1,500.00

Budget amount approved (up to \$2,000.00): \$1,500.00

Situation/issue:

The green industry is the fastest growing segment of agriculture in the state. Increasing urbanization and unbridled development in urban and suburban areas has increased demand for landscaping and landscaping services in Arizona. Many new residents arrive in Arizona with little or no knowledge about the desert environment and how to successfully garden or landscape in this climate. Extension agents in all counties spend many hours answering gardening and landscaping questions, both for residential and commercial customers.

The commercial, urban, and Master Gardener working groups have met in the past several times a year to share information about current educational projects, research, and critical needs. The meetings help to coordinate some programs across several counties, increase awareness of ongoing programs in each county, and learn about existing or new resources.

Inputs including budget:

Budget: \$1,500 to facilitate one meeting in person, support members to attend the Desert Horticulture Conference for continuing education purposes, and to purchase new educational supplies in support of horticulture programs.

Outputs:

The long-term goal of this group is to provide sound, research-based horticultural information to members of the landscape and nursery industry, and state, county, and municipal decision makers who influence landscapes in Arizona. Special attention is given to care of plants in urban landscapes, and water conservation.

State at least one educational product:

Two or more educational publications will be produced in the coming year, one a PowerPoint presentation on Proper Pruning, the other a summary of the impact of the January 2007 freeze on plants. Both topics will be useful to educate managers of landscapes on the proper procedures for pruning and how to enhance functionality, aesthetics, and long-term health of trees and shrubs in urban landscapes. The summary of damage from the freeze event will help clarify which plants can withstand low temperatures, the extent of damage and recovery observed, and factors that may help minimize damage from low temperatures in the future.

Short-term outcomes:

Prioritize short and longterm issues that affect landscapes and the nursery industry in Arizona. Coordinate efforts among working group members to produce educational materials and disseminate the information across the state.

Medium-term outcomes:

The green industry and decision makers in the state dealing with landscape issues will turn to University of Arizona Cooperative Extension personnel for timely and accurate information regarding ornamental horticulture questions. A continuous dialogue between the clientele and University personnel will help coordinate future education and research efforts.