

Arizona Cooperative Extension Proposal Requests - Working Group Award

Title: Urban/Home Horticulture

Program Area(s): Agriculture and Natural Resources

County affiliate(s): Cochise - Rob Call
Gila - Chris Jones
Maricopa - Terry Mikel
Mohave - Rob Grumbles
Pima - Jack Kelly
Pima - John Begeman
Pinal - Rick Gibson
Yavapai - Jeff Schalaus

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

Lead Faculty: Cochise - Rob Call

This Working Group was previously funded: Yes

University fiscal year: FY2003

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

Two meetings of the Urban Horticulture Working Group were held. One during CALS Annual Conference in August of 2006 and an in-service training on May 17, 2007, at the Pima CE offices. Training included presentations on emerging pest problems, agent resources and new publications.

A total of 15 posters, printed on weather proof fabric, addressing proper pruning of trees and shrubs were published, in English and Spanish, in conjunction with the Commercial Horticulture Working Group. These are being distributed to all Arizona Cooperative Extension Offices. Several Extension bulletins were produced by working group members. These include, Pecan Production Guidelines for Small Orchards Backyards, Problems and Pests of Agave, Aloe, Cactus and Yucca and Mesquite and Palo Verde Trees for the Urban Landscape. Continuing discussion on how best to revise the Arizona Master Gardener Manual are being conducted.

Planning for the third Master Gardener University, to be held in October 2007, was completed. This two day program rewards and brings selected Master Gardeners to Campus to visit specialists labs and the College's Campbell Avenue Farms.

Working Group funds were used to purchase four digital microscopes for four Extension offices to replace the toy Intel Play microscopes. These offices did not have the ability to send clear electronic images of unidentified plant and pest related problems to Campus and Experiment Station-based Extension Specialist for diagnosis.

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 State of Arizona is highly urbanized, with over 96% of the population living in urban settings. Horticultural information is increasingly required by citizens of Arizona. The Urban Horticulture Working Group members identify and address major issues of statewide concern. Meeting this demand can consume the limited resources of county based Extension personnel who have minimal or no training in horticulture.

This Working Group produces education materials and programs to aid Extension personnel in delivering to the public horticultural information. Coordination among team members facilitates delivery of educational programs that have impact on a statewide basis to homeowners and those working in the "green industry." Cost recovery issues affecting the Urban and Home Horticulture programs in Arizona are particularly complicated for this program area (Master Gardener programs, user fees, demonstration gardens, educational programs, etc.), and require statewide coordination.

Inputs including budget:

All funds requested will be utilized to facilitate working group meetings to allow team member to accomplish short and medium term goals and objectives. Through the process, funding for long-term goals will be identified and sought. Working group funds will be used for Breeze/conference calls, bring team members together for work sessions and in-service meetings in support of priorities and issues identified by the group. Also, funds will be used to purchase resource materials for Extension personnel in the field.

The requested budget break down is: \$1,000 for travel and communication costs and \$500 for resource material purchases.

Outputs:

The long term goal is to address identified priorities and issues on a statewide basis, and create statewide impacts on clientele. These will include: proper care and cultivation of plant materials; water conservation; and the responsible use of other resources such as fertilizers and pesticides, in urban landscapes and gardens.

State at least one educational product:

Educational Products: Produce more educational products like Publications, Fact Sheet and PowerPoint Presentation. Plan and coordinate statewide activities like the Master Gardener University.

Justification: Research-based educational information is needed for clientele to take informed actions to conserve natural resources and preserve Arizona's unique environment.

Short-term outcomes:

Short-term Outcomes: Identification of statewide priorities and issues affecting urban horticulture in Arizona. Production of educational materials to increase knowledge base of clientele.

Medium-term outcomes:

Medium-term Outcomes: Results will include development of a plan to address the issues defined by the working group. Additionally, a resource development plan will be devised that will support funding ideas for creating solutions to the priorities and issues identified. Networking between agents and campus-based faculty will foster and facilitate both short and medium term goals and objectives.