

TRANSITIONAL HOME HORTICULTURE DURING A PANDEMIC

Carroll, D.¹; Koon, D.²; Edwards, L.³; O'Rear, B.⁴; Smith, K.⁵; Kelley, M.⁶; Britton, R.⁷; LeCroy, J.⁸; Crow, T.⁹; Wynn, N.¹⁰; Yates, Rudy¹¹

¹Regional Extension Agent - Home Grounds, Gardens & Home Pests, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Opelika, AL; ²Regional Extension Agent - Home Grounds, Gardens & Home Pests, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Eufala, AL; ³Regional Extension Agent - Home Grounds, Gardens & Home Pests, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Hamilton, AL; ⁴Regional Extension Agent - Home Grounds, Gardens & Home Pests, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Birmingham, AL; ⁵Administrator III, Outreach Programs, Alabama Extension Home Grounds Co-Leader, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn, AL; ⁶Regional Extension Agent - Home Grounds, Gardens & Home Pests, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Autaugaville, AL; ⁷Regional Extension Agent - Home Grounds, Gardens & Home Pests, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Huntsville, AL; ⁸Regional Extension Agent - Home Grounds, Gardens & Home Pests, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Gulf Shores, AL; ⁹Regional Extension Agent - Home Grounds, Gardens & Home Pests, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Hartselle, AL; ¹⁰Regional Extension Agent - Home Grounds, Gardens & Home Pests, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Columbiana, AL; ¹¹Regional Extension Agent - Home Grounds, Gardens & Home Pests, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Linden, AL.

Educational Objective

- The Home Grounds Team shifted to online programming on March 18, 2020, launching daily programming via Zoom video conferencing titled, Get Outside with Alabama Smart Yards.
- Weekly schedules were made and distributed to all Alabama Extension colleagues for them to publicize.
- The Alabama Extension Communications Team created a blog advertising the new series.
- Each Home Grounds Regional Extension Agent emailed their respective Alabama Extension Master Gardener Volunteer groups for additional publicity.
- Get Outside with Alabama Smart Yards taught and promoted best management practices for residential and community landscapes.
- 35 consecutive daily programs were hosted before transitioning to weekly and impromptu programs.



Scan QR for detailed objective and story.

The Vision

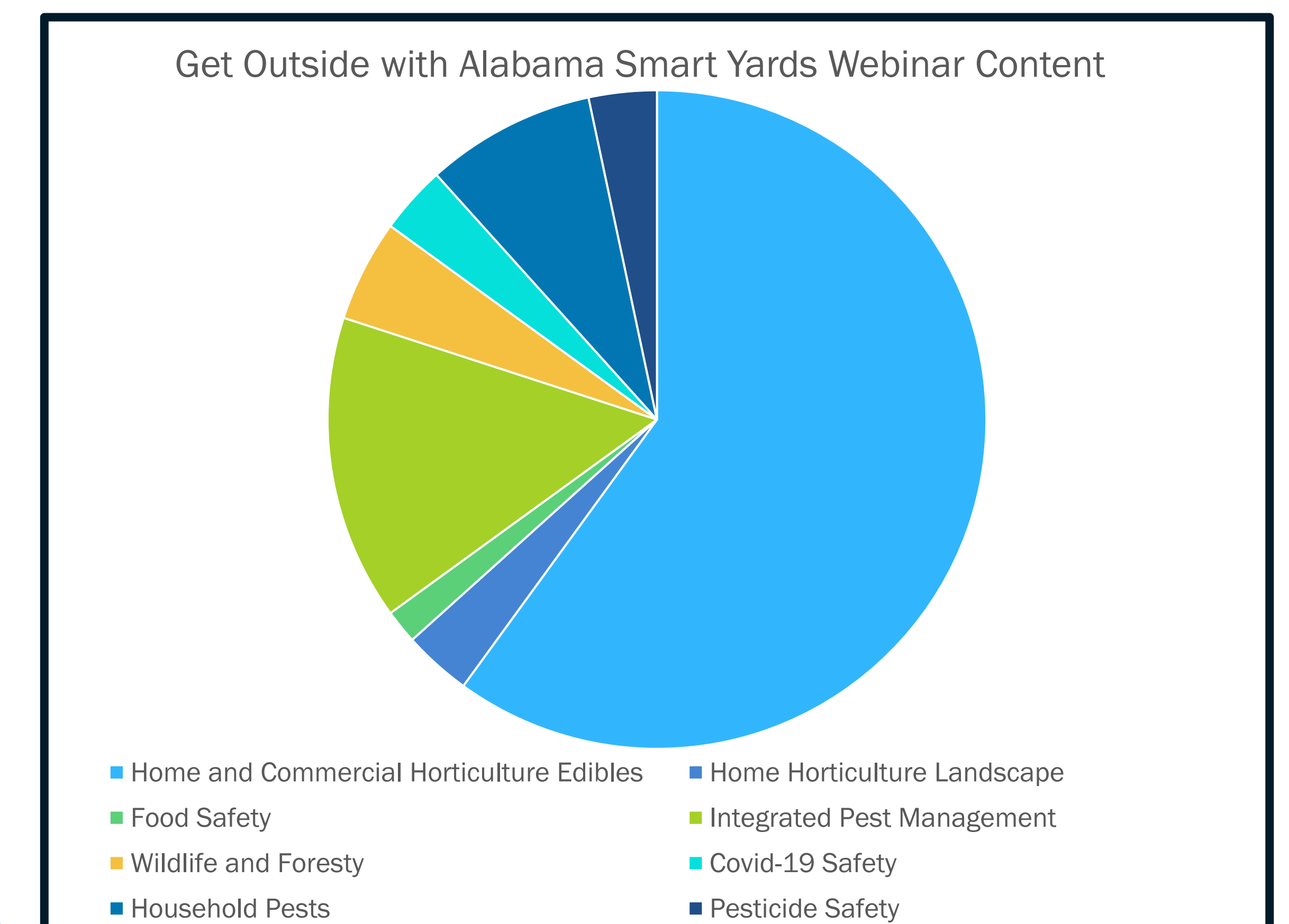
Provide Alabama residents with daily educational programming immediately after the Covid-19 pandemic forced Alabama Extension into remote operations.

The screenshot shows a registration form for the Alabama Smart Yards webinar series. It includes fields for First Name, Last Name, Email Address, Country, Sex, Age, Ethnicity, and Race. There is also a 'Required Information' section with a 'Register' button at the bottom.

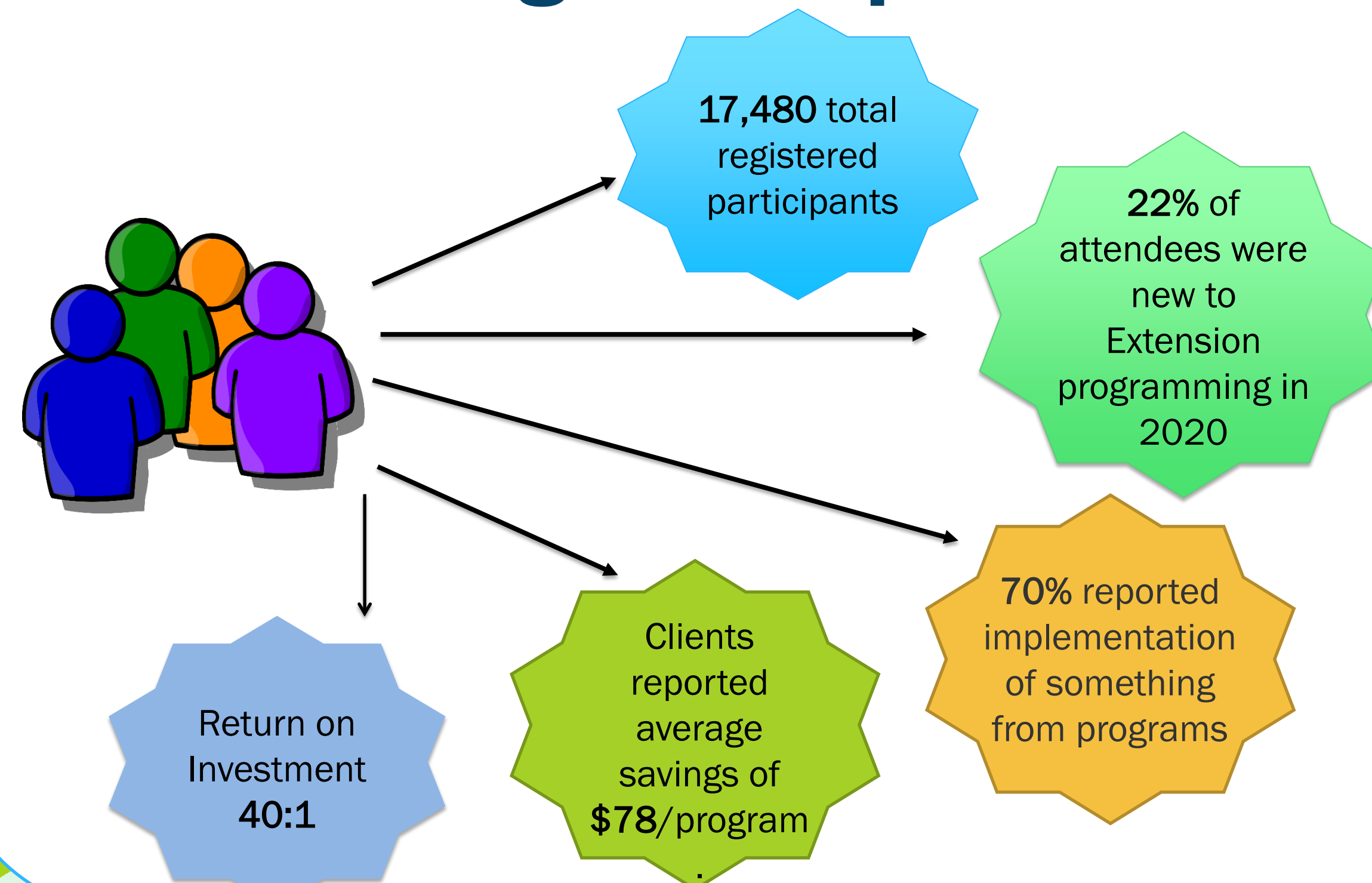
The screenshot shows the HORTICULTURE & HOME GROUNDS webinar page. It features the title 'Get Outside with Alabama Smart Yards!', a description of the free webinar series (45 minutes, weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CDT), and a list of topics and speakers for the March 18-31 series. A 'Master Gardener Helpline' number is also provided.

Content Provided

Using Zoom video conferencing and the Alabama Smart Yards - Alabama Extension Facebook page, the Home Grounds Team partnered with 6 complementary Extension teams of experts to engage new and current clients with the broad array of topics and related advice that Alabama Extension provides.



Program Impact



Participant Testimonials

- Thank you so much for all the webinars you have facilitated over the last few months. After you showed us rain barrels I bought one and the contractor fixing my roof will place my rain barrel for me Monday.
- Your fan, Susan P.
- Thank you for Smart Yards, in addition to all the other hats you all wear now. Stay well and safe.
God bless you.
- Bob Haynes, St. Clair County Master Gardeners
- I am truly grateful for what you and your team have accomplished. Kudos!!! Looking forward to what y'all do next.
- Hana Berres, Education Training Coordinator
Stormwater Program, Department of Development Services