

2020 Plantastic Vegetable Gardening Seminar

Developed by Elizabeth McMahon, County Extension Agent, Horticulture, Gillespie County

RESPONSE

- The program task force met on 7/24/2019, 8/14/2019, 1/15/2020, 3/04/2020.
- Programs were advertised on Facebook, in local newspapers (Fredericksburg, Kerrville, Llano, and Mason) on the KNAF 910 radio station and in newsletters.

Plantastic Vegetable Gardening Seminar

- One six hour program on 2/7/2020
- In response to 2019 program comments tables were added for lunch, organic gardening was emphasized, and a drip irrigation program added.
- Received \$180 dollars in donated door prizes.
- Fifty-seven attendees, with 5 volunteers volunteering 40 hours total. Volunteers, including planning committee members, gave 5 of the presentations at this program.

RESULTS

Plantastic Vegetable Gardening Seminar

Participants were given a program survey before they left the program (2/7/2020, 77% response rate) and emailed a Qualtrics post survey (7/21/2020, 44% response rate).

- Post survey respondents said 47.83% “Prefer In-person”, 47.83% selected “Virtual Option Ok, but still have in-person”, 4.35% “No Preference” and 0% “Prefer Virtual”.
- Organic Gardening
 - Program survey asked “Intend to use more organic methods in their garden”. 61 % said “Yes” and 36 % “Use organic methods already”.
 - Post survey reported 42 % agreed that “the main speaker convinced me to use more organic gardening techniques”, and 42% were “organic gardening already, and used a few new things from program”.
- Cover Crops
 - In the day of the program survey, 84 % said they intend to try a cover crop in their garden.
 - In the post survey, 26.32 % had tried a cover crop and 15.79 % intended to try one in the fall.
 - 0% selected option “What’s a cover crop?”.
- Vegetable Production
 - Day of the program knowledge gained included increases in “Which vegetables grow well in off seasons” (41 % increase), “When different vegetables are at peak ripeness” (29%),” growing tomatoes in the hill country” (28%) and “Different types of beans in Texas Hill Country” (41 %).
 - Post survey indicated 52.63% said knowledge gained from this program helped them get vegetables this year, with 47.37% answering somewhat.
- Weed Management
 - There was a 30% change of knowledge regarding “Different methods of weed management”.
 - The post survey indicated 53% used mulch in vegetable garden this year, with 16% doing this before program. Mulch is a type of weed control.

COVID-19 IMPACTS ON THIS PLAN

- Participants were asked to wear masks and Covid-19 procedures were implemented after February 2020.

FUTURE PLANS

This program will be continued next year. Future plans include developing a more consistent way to get feedback on trial vegetable varieties and to improve measurement of post program results.