

Garden-to-Pantry Extension Program: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Producing and Preserving Local Foods

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Objectives

The Garden-to-Pantry (G2P) program offers a comprehensive, one-day experience that covers everything from planting and preserving to cooking seasonal crops.

Why Garden-to-Pantry?

The Home Food Preservation Needs Assessment for Alabama stakeholders shows a strong interest in the G2P program across the state. The evaluation revealed that 91% (843 respondents) are interested in a cross-discipline approach.

Methodology

Program Outline:

- 4-hour program
- Topics: Produce Growing Basics, Pest Management, Food Preservation Method, Nutrition Education/Cooking Demonstration
- Produce: Tomatoes, Blueberries, Strawberries, Green beans, Collard Greens

Evaluation Tool:

- Post Program Survey- 129 Survey Respondents

Audience Diversity

Based on 10 reported activities and 129 in-state participants, the diversity percentage are:

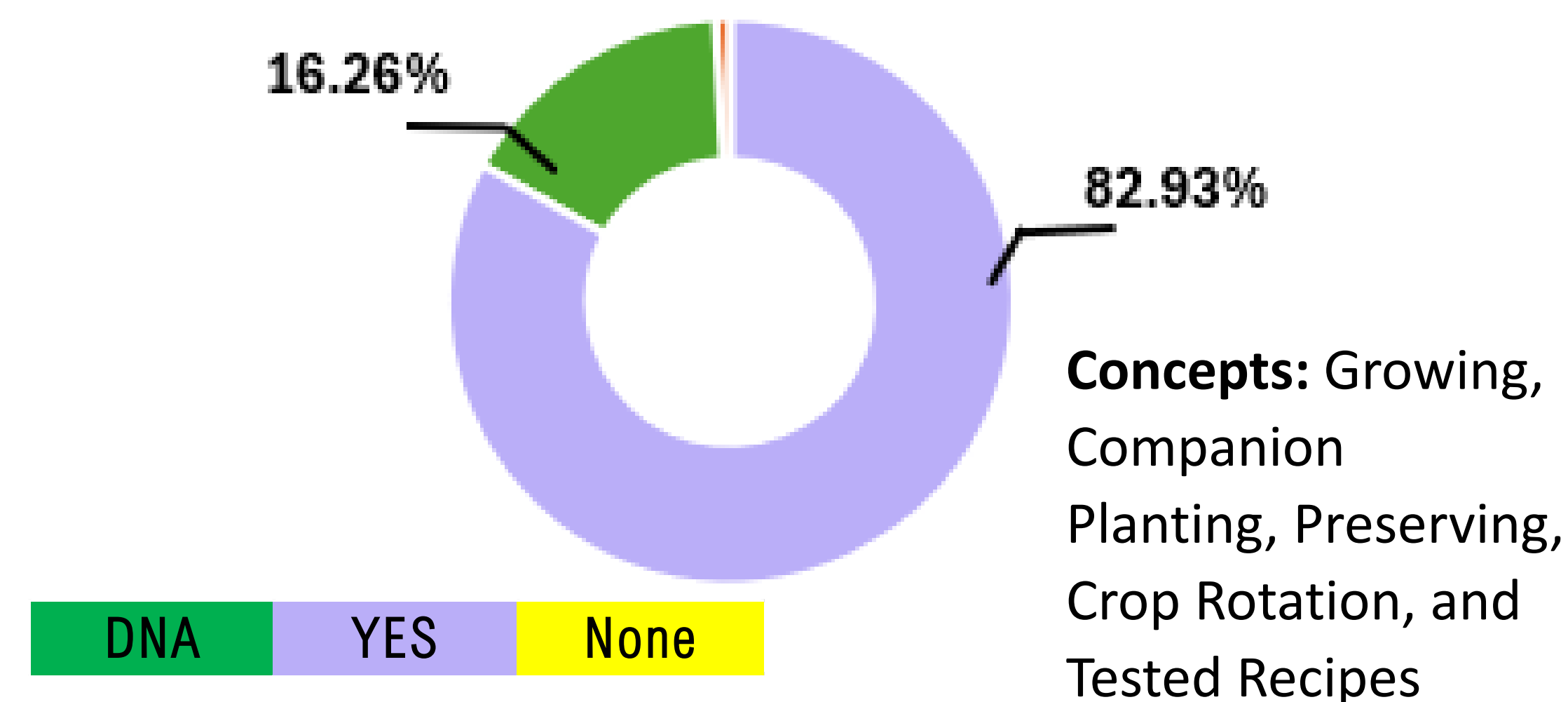
- 83% female, 17% male;
- 7% Black, 92% White, less than 1% each American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, and other races.

Program Outcomes

G2P Program was effective in boosting participants' confidence and knowledge:

- 91% of participants are more confident in produce growing.
- 93% of participants are more confident in practicing home food preservation.
- 41% of participants reported a significant increase in their knowledge of growing produce (up from 17% before the workshop).
- 70% (n=71) of participants reported a significant increase in their knowledge of pressuring canning (up from 62% before the workshop with little or no prior knowledge of the process).

Will you apply anything taught or demonstrated in our program today?



Discussion of survey findings:

- More than 80% of the participants will be applying the concepts/demonstration learned in the workshop.



Testimonials

"I believe the Garden to Pantry class will help my family. I fully intend to use what I learned when gardening and preserving food this fall."
– April, Clark County.

"I believe the workshop was helpful for me and my family. I knew nothing about canning/preserving food before I attended the workshop. Now I feel more comfortable planting and canning." –Ann, Baldwin County.

Future Direction

- In 2025, we plan to expand our G2P implementation and aim to extend our reach to 20 counties.
- Based on survey responses, participants will implement growing techniques during the program.

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