

Building Capacity in Local Fruit Production

Fuder, J.G.¹, Dyer,* S.F.², Hutcheson, B.W.³

¹Extension Agent, Georgia Cooperative Extension, Cherokee County, Canton, Georgia, 30114

²Extension Agent, Georgia Cooperative Extension, Dade County, Trenton, Georgia, 30752

³Extension Agent, Georgia Cooperative Extension, Walker County, LaFayette, Georgia, 30728



Why is this effort needed?

Home fruit and vegetable gardening is foundational to Extension's role in communities across Georgia. Fruit gardening is often more challenging for hobbyists and homeowners. The perennial nature of the plants requires sound decisions be made prior to planting and maintenance be performed throughout the life of the plants. A knowledge gap exists in critical elements such as variety selection, establishment, maintenance, pruning, and pest management.

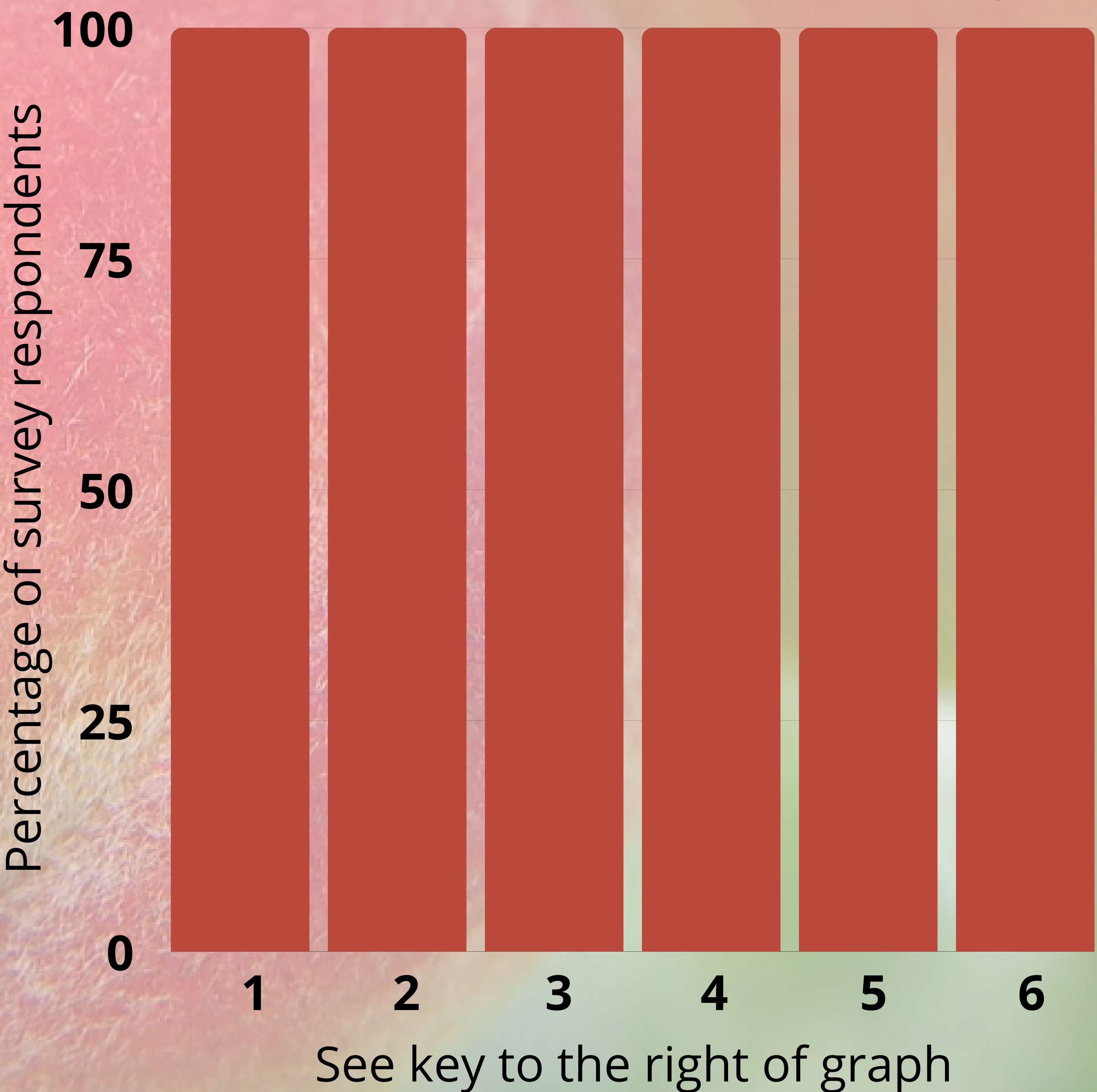
Methods

Collaborate with area ANR agents to plan and conduct fruit tree field day workshops to include classroom and hands-on field activities to bridge the knowledge gap within fruit tree production. Cherokee County ANR Agent, Josh Fuder, presented at two field days organized in collaboration with ANR Agents in Dade and Walker counties. One field day was held in Dade and one was held in Walker. The field day trainings each included a half day of theory on variety selection, site considerations and pest management, and the second half of the training was hands-on with stations on pruning, spray equipment and safety, and pest identification. The two field days collectively reached thirty-nine individuals from three counties.



Impact

Participant knowledge and confidence increase as a result of the trainings



Key:

- 1 Respondents who said they improved their knowledge of site considerations, variety selection, & pruning
- 2 Respondents who said they improved their knowledge of common diseases & insect pest of fruit in Georgia
- 3 Respondents who said they improved their knowledge of pesticides, safety, and timing of applications
- 4 Respondents who indicated they feel more confident selecting and planting fruits for their area
- 5 Respondents who indicated they feel more confident pruning and training fruit trees
- 6 Respondents who indicated they are likely to develop an IPM strategy for their home orchard following the training



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION