

DANE COUNTY EXTENSION HORTICULTURE PROGRAM 2020-2021

By Lisa Johnson
Dane County Extension
Horticulture Educator



Overview of Major Programming Categories

- ▣ Green Industry Professionals
- ▣ The Public
 - ▣ General Public
 - ▣ Community Gardeners (through Dane Gardens Network)
 - ▣ Community Groups
 - ▣ Garden Clubs/Public Gardens
 - ▣ Libraries
 - ▣ Habitat for Humanity
 - ▣ Others
- ▣ Master Gardener Volunteers
- ▣ UW Horticulture Team Work Statewide
 - ▣ Statewide talks on seed starting
 - ▣ Garden Expo virtual booths
- ▣ Media Work

Green Industry Professionals

- ▣ **Urban Forestry Program**
 - ▣ Continuing education for arborists primarily
 - ▣ Online in fall 2020, collaboration with colleagues from four other counties, average of 55 attended per each of 3 sessions
 - ▣ "As a City forester, I will utilize the handouts and publication links in decisions made concerning trees selected for planting in our city."
- ▣ **Winter Seminar Series (aka Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Short Course in 2021)**
 - ▣ Held online in February 2021, collaboration with colleagues from three other counties over 4 weeks
 - ▣ 262 to 297 attendees participated each of the 4 weeks
 - ▣ Brought in local speakers and some from other states
 - ▣ Provides continuing education for green industry
 - ▣ Over 67% said they learned 'a great deal' or 'a lot' the top two Likert scale measurements
 - ▣ "I am new to the landscaping business and am grateful for the overview of so many things that are a part of the job."

General Public



- ▣ **Green Thumb Gardening Classes**
 - ▣ In-person fall classes prior to 2020
 - ▣ Switch to on-line classes in 2020 increased average attendance from in-person five- to seven-fold
 - ▣ Winter Vegetable Gardening Series
 - ▣ 6 classes, average attendance about 60
 - ▣ Green Thumb Gardening classes now run all year long
 - ▣ Plan to have blended online and in-person in the future post-pandemic
 - ▣ **Habitat for Humanity**
 - ▣ Gave a required attendance talk in fall 2020 and spring 2021 on caring for landscapes and home maintenance (snow shoveling, gutter care) for diverse new home owners groups

Community Groups

- ▣ **Dane Gardens Network 2021 Gardens Summit**
 - ▣ Joined with colleague Jess Calkins, non-profit Rooted (through Dane Gardens Network), Groundwork Milwaukee and a colleague from Brown County to hold online.
 - ▣ Attendees from at least 6 counties
 - ▣ Testimonials:
 - ▣ Elizabeth, Eau Claire, Southside Community Garden "Yesterday I learned that we can predict when certain nasty bugs will hatch based on degree days. If we know when they become active, we can make some changes (floating row covers, later planting, planting trap crops, etc) to reduce damage to our veggies."
 - ▣ Anonymous "I'll be planting and tending my tomatoes differently from what I learned yesterday. Very informative conference!"

Community Groups

- ▣ **Seed Distribution to Community Gardens**
 - ▣ Troy: 170 gardeners, Leopold: 31 gardeners, Meadowood: 24 gardeners, Hammersley: 12 gardeners, Eastmorland : 36 gardeners, Hawthorne: 10 gardeners, Southdale: 20 gardeners, East Madison Truax: 25 gardeners, Vets' Garden at Troy: 8 gardeners, Marlborough Park: over 140 gardeners, Theresa Terrace Youth program
- ▣ **COVID Rules Community Gardens Statewide Sign design team**

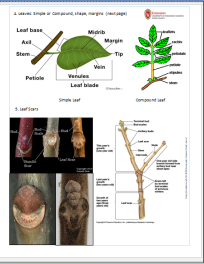
Community Groups

- ▣ Olbrich Gardens Tree Pruning Presentation
 - *“This class helped me more than I can say. I have dabbled at pruning but really needed to hear from an expert. Lisa did a great job of explaining the details and the sequence. It was also very helpful to have her talk about the tools and their proper care.”*



Community Groups Work

- ▣ Neperud Orchard/Trout Unlimited (Topf Wells)
- ▣ Oregon Parks and Recreation
- ▣ Oregon Seniors group
- ▣ Cub Scouts
- ▣ Working with Arboretum and Good Oak Ecological Services on Jumping Worms Citizen Science Research Project/Baldwin grant



Master Gardener Volunteers

- ▣ Adapted 2020 classes to online format on the fly starting in March after first two sessions of in-person classes
- ▣ Used new techniques to maintain interest
- ▣ Classes continued through August with 55 MGV students; 49 graduated
- ▣ Gave online exam - first ever!

Native Plants and Pollinators in the Garden

What percent of flowering plants depend on pollinators for plant reproduction?

Poll

Bees in the Garden

How Many Bee Species are in the World?

How Many Bee Species are in the Wisconsin?

Poll

Horticulture Team at Garden Expo 2021




Pre-recorded lecture on Rain Gardens and live Q&A with PBS host Ben Futa

Two live Q&A 'Ask the Experts' sessions in the virtual Extension Booth



Media Work

- ▣ 'Garden Talk' with Larry Meiller on WI public radio
- ▣ Interviews with Pam Janke
- ▣ Newspaper column in WI State Journal when space is available



Any questions?

Lisa Johnson
 Dane County Extension Horticulture Educator
Johnson.lisa@countyofdane.com
<https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/>
 5201 Fen Oak Drive
 Madison, WI 53718
 608-224-3715

