

# Making a Difference

## Lubbock Master Gardener Association

### Relevance

The Lubbock Master Gardener Association is an active, key component to horticulture education to the general public in Lubbock County. They serve as the volunteer educational wing of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in many counties throughout the state and work to support the local horticulture agent by hosting and teaching educational classes, volunteering for community betterment and beautification projects in Lubbock County. The Lubbock Master Gardener Association has become well known in the Lubbock community and has developed a brand which represents expertise, professionalism, and high quality, helpful programming in the realms of home horticulture, vegetable gardening, water use/conservation, rainwater harvesting, and Earth-Kind and other beneficial horticultural practices.

### Response

- 2019 Lubbock Master Gardener intern training (20 interns).
  - Interns met every Thursday (9 am - 3 pm) from February 7, 2019 through April 4, 2019 and covered all subjects in the Texas Master Gardener Handbook and relevant local topics.
  - Interns also took part in several Extension educational activities, and field trips.
    - Texas Tech University Greenhouse and Educational Gardens
    - District 2 Vineyard and High Tunnel Field Day Tours
    - Lubbock Arboretum for woody plants tour and identification discussion
  - Interns participated in the LMGA Mentor program
  - 17 interns certified as of November 2019
- Spring and fall Master's Touch public education courses (95 total attendees).
- School garden projects at Roscoe Wilson Elementary, All (8) Frenship ISD Elementary schools, and Rush Elementary
- Monthly educational booth at Lubbock Downtown Farmer's Market (150-300 contacts per month)
- Educational booth at Lubbock Garden and Arts Center fall festival (250 contacts)
- Educational booth at the Lubbock Arts Festival (145 contacts)
- Educational display at Nature's Core Event (95 contacts)



*Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating*

## **Results**

Interns of the Lubbock Master Gardener Association were evaluated via written survey both before and after the intern training program. A test with 45 questions was designed to evaluate overall horticultural knowledge and familiarity with topics covered in the Texas Master Gardener Handbook. Test scores indicated a 48% increase in knowledge from before and after the course.

## **Conclusions and Future Plans**



The Lubbock Master Gardener Association plans to follow many of the same educational paths in 2020 as in 2019, focusing on home horticultural knowledge and adoption of best management practices as well as a heavy emphasis on water conservation education.

## **Acknowledgements**

Lubbock County AgriLife Extension and the Lubbock Master Gardener Association would like to thank the High Plains Water District, Lubbock County Commissioner's Court, Texas Tech University, Lubbock Downtown Farmers Market, Lubbock ISD, Frenship ISD, Lubbock Arboretum, Lubbock Arts Council, Texas A&M AgriLife Research District 2, the Science Spectrum and other partnering organizations for their continued support, encouragement, and hard work.