

Making a Difference

Lubbock Master Gardener Association 2020 Intern Class

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

- 2020 Lubbock Master Gardener intern training (18 interns).
 - Intern orientation (3/14) was canceled due to COVID-19 concerns
 - Interns met virtually every Sunday from March 15, 2020 through May 10, 2020 to fulfill their online curriculum.
 - Interns also took part in several virtual educational activities to finish their 50 hours of education requirement.
 - 2 interns certified as of November 2020. (many hardships forced interns to withdraw from the course in hopes to reapply in 2021)



Results

Interns of the Lubbock Master Gardener Association were evaluated via online post completion of the course. 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 75% increase in knowledge.

Conclusions and Future Plans



The Lubbock Master Gardener Association plans to follow many of the same educational paths in 2021 as in 2020, focusing on home horticultural knowledge and adoption of best management practices as well as a heavy emphasis on water conservation education.

Acknowledgements

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