

## BCMGA Annual Committee Report

Committee: Plant Problem Scenario (PPS) Year: 2025

\*Number of Active Members: 12 (2-3 core) \*Number of Public Contacts: 30-35 trainees:

\*Number of volunteer hours (estimates are fine): 100

Purpose of Committee:

**Problem Scenario (PPS)** is an educational program designed to teach Master Gardener trainees interview skills, diagnostic techniques and resource tools. This is accomplished using role-playing with certified Master Gardeners using plant problem scenarios derived from common local issues. Each scenario, as presented by the role-playing group leader, begins with a request for assistance, much like a Master Gardener might receive while seated at a help desk or at a Farmers Market.

NOTE: Linn & Benton trainees go through MG training together. PPS core committee and group leaders include representatives from LCMGA. PPS sessions are split into LC and BC groups. We try to have group leaders from LC lead the trainees from LC and BC MGs lead trainees from BC.

Goals for the year:

- Introduce trainees to basic steps for diagnosing a plant problem.
- Introduce trainees to research based resources.
- Provide county unique desk procedures to trainees.
- Make trainees feel confident and eager to spend time at the help desk.

Events/Activities:

- -The majority of activities are held in the spring. The administrative portion including developing and printing scenario workbooks is normally done in the preceding fall/winter months.
- -We hold 2 PPS group leader training sessions, one in Benton County and one in Linn County. These are for the CMGs that will be leading the role playing sessions.
- This year, we had three 1 hour PPS sessions and one 2 hour session with the trainees. Group leaders came 30 minutes early for our prep session, then spend about an hour working directly with the class.
- Trainees are separated into groups of 3-4 with 2 group leaders presenting the scenarios. Group leaders have the option to attend the lecture portion of the trainees class and receive CE credits towards their recertification.
- New this year, we combined with the Benton County Desk committee to present two 1 hour cohort sessions. We developed and presented skits showing how a MG should interact with a client during a plant client/ farmers market shift.

\*Information needed by Treasurer for annual IRS filing

How have your goals and events met the educational mission of BCMGA?

- Prepare trainees to interact with the public at help desk and clinic tables.
- Help trainees hone their investigative and deductive skills.
- Relieve anxiety about the help desk.
- Meet and welcome new Master Gardeners.

Has your committee had opportunities to meet the needs of underserved populations?

- During the training we discuss the diverse population and education levels that will be encountered at the help desk and emphasize the need to treat all with respect.

How might your committee extend events/activities to underserved populations in the future?

- We could introduce scenarios and resources that introduce common problems affecting crops of importance to various ethnic groups

Other information you would like to share that is unique to your committee:

- PPS group leaders are one of the first MG's the trainees will meet so we strive to give a good first impression. We work at being welcoming and positive as we present the scenarios.
- We try to keep these sessions informal and fun. Time is built in for Group Leaders to share personal experiences as a Master Gardener.

Thinking of joining the PPS Committee?

- Teaching is the best way to learn. Serving as a Group Leader improves your own diagnostic skills. It's also a great way to get to know the incoming Master Gardeners.