

Benton County Master Gardeners Annual Report by Committee

2022

Committee Name: Plant Problem Scenario: Summer 2022; **Months of activity:** 3

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Number of participants: 12

Estimate of Total Hours Volunteered: 50 Hours

Purpose of Committee: Plant Problem Scenario (PPS) training is an educational program designed to teach Master Gardener trainees interview skills and diagnostic techniques. This is accomplished using role-playing Continuing Master Gardeners and 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. The group leader will follow with a slightly more involved description to get the trainees started in the right direction.

Continuing Goals:

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.

Have fun!

2022 Goals: COVID continued to hamper our ability to conduct Plant Problem Sessions this year. Our primary goal was to have at least one in-person training session. We were able to accomplish that goal with a garden lab at both Benton and Linn demo gardens. In addition, new scenarios were developed for use as part of the on-line training program.

Events: Two PPS sessions, one in Benton County and one in Lane County.

Number of Working Meetings: 3

Goals for next year: For 2023, we plan to hold 4 in-person sessions. All sessions will be held in February. Follow on sessions will be offered on-line in March. Group leaders may provide monitoring and assistance using an on-line discussion board. We also plan on coordinating Committee Chair briefs after each session, followed by a brown bag lunch.

Budget Spending for the Year: 0

Budget Amount for the Year: \$25 Note: All printing was done at the extension office.

Additional information: Join us! We offer training and practice to group leaders. New members are teamed up with an experienced group leader. It's a great way to meet the incoming Master Gardeners trainees.