

Books																																						
Contributors																																						
Extension Professionals	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
University Faculty	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•		•	•		•	•		•	•			
University Staff			•	•	•		•	•	•	•			•	•	•								•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•				
Community Professionals													•									•																
Master Gardeners			•		•				•	•					•	•							•	•			•	•	•		•							
Technical Writers			•			•		•	•		•																						•					
Graphics																																						
Color Photos/ Plates				•		•				•	•		•	•	•															•	•		•	•				
Black & White Photos			•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•																								
Black & White Illustrations	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Color Illustrations				•		•				•	•															•			•									
Color Cover			•	•							•			•	•														•	•							•	
Color Dividers				•									•																									
Tools																																						
Objectives			•		•		•	•		•	•	•													•			•		•		•					•	
FAQ's			•						•			•	•																									
Quizzes/Review Questions				•	•	•			•	•															•			•		•							•	
Labs/Hands on Activities						•																																
Suggestions for further reading				•	•	•			•	•		•	•	•	•									•			•	•	•		•						•	
Power Point Presentations					•																																	
Communication Methods							•																							•	•							•
Maps to horticulture locations					•	•																																
Appendex (pH table, plant lists, etc.)			•			•				•	•														•	•												
Index			•			•		•	•	•	•				•									•	•		•	•	•								•	
Glossary			•		•		•	•	•	•															•	•		•	•	•							•	
Chapters																																						
Introduction																																						
Extension Program			•		•					◦			•											◦	◦			•								•		
Overview of EMG Program	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	◦	•						•		•	•	•	•	•	•						•		
Volunteering			•							◦			◦																			•					•	

Horticulture/Botany																							
Introduction to Horticulture	•	•																					
Botany	•	◦		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Plant Physiology	◦						•															•	•
Plant Nomenclature/ID				•				◦														◦	•
Plant Propagation	•	◦	•																				
House Plants	•	◦	•																				
Soils																							
Soil	•	◦	•	•																			
Urban Soil Management																							
Fertilizer/Plant Nutrition	•	◦	•	•																			
Composting																							
Vermicomposting																							
Water																							
Water Management																							
Irrigation	•																						
Waterwise Landscaping	◦																						
Water Gardening																							
Water Quality Protection	•																						
Plant Pathology																							
Plant Pathology	•	•	•	•																			
Diagnostics																							
Diagnosing Plant Problems	•	•	•	•	◦																		
Keys	◦	•		◦																			
Pests																							
Entomology	•	◦	•																				
IPM	◦																						
Poisonous Plants																							
Vertebrate Pests	•																						
Household & Structural Pests																							
Invasive plants																							
Weed Science																							
Pesticide Use/ Safety	•	◦																					
Arachnids																							

Woody Plants																								
Woody Landscape Plants																								
Ornamental Trees																								
Ground Covers																								
Shrubs																								
Vines																								
Pruning																								
Arboriculture																								
Grass																								
Lawns																								
Lawn Alternatives																								
Ornamental Grasses																								
Herbaceous Plants																								
Herbaceous Plants																								
Annuals																								
Bulbs/rhizomes/tubers																								
Perennials																								
Roses																								
Cacti																								
Edible Gardening																								
Fruits/ Fruit Production																								
Herbs																								
Organic Gardening																								
Vegetable Gardening																								
Vegetable Profiles																								
Small Fruits																								
Small Fruit																								
Blueberries																								
Brambles (Blackberries, Raspberries)																								
Currants																								
Elderberries																								
Grapes																								
Kiwi																								
Other																								
Strawberries																								
Tree/Large Fruit																								
Tree Fruits																								
Nuts																								

certified EMGV.

Table 2.
States with Manuals Available at No Charge Online

State	Website
Arizona	http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/garden/mg/
Idaho	http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/mg/resources/handbook/MGHbook.pdf
Kentucky	http://www2.ca.uky.edu/ANR/Master%20Gardener%20Publication.htm
Maine	http://umaine.edu/gardening/master-gardeners/manual/
Missouri	http://extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPub.aspx?P=CB19
New Mexico	http://aces.nmsu.edu/desertblooms/nmsugardening/index.html
New York	http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/education/mgprogram/mgmanual.htm

Hard-copy manuals varied from 400 to over 1,000 pages. Cost for these manuals varied from free for some that are available online to over \$100 for some of the spiral-bound copies. For many states the manual is only available to volunteers who take the EMGV Training Program. Some states offer their manual to the public for a fee, generally between \$30 and \$100. California's manual can be purchased on Amazon.com, and Colorado's from an online publisher.

Authors

The manuals were written by a variety of authors, including Extension professionals, university professors and staff, EMGVs, professionals from the community, as well as technical writers, graphic designers, and editors. All of the manuals reviewed were a combined effort of multiple authors. Extension staff were the most common authors of chapters. EMGVs were often involved both in writing of text as well as editing.

Graphics

The graphics most commonly used were black and white line drawings. Some manuals did include color images as plates in the middle of the manual or as additional color copies that were tucked into the pockets of three-ring binders. Manuals that were online were able to incorporate many more color images.

Educational Tools

This section of the review covered additional materials contained in the manuals, including frequently asked questions, objectives, quizzes, suggestions for further reading, PowerPoint presentations, communications writing and teaching methods, maps, index, and glossary. Many manuals included some of these extras to help EMGV's review the material covered in their coursework.

Subjects Covered

Some manuals are a complete horticultural reference text, with the most common topics covered being Botany, Soils, Pathology, Entomology, IPM, Weeds, Vegetables, Turfgrass, Woody Ornamentals, Herbaceous Ornamentals, Diagnostics, and the Extension Program. The climate dictates the inclusion of some chapters. For example, states in the Southwest contain chapters on cacti and low water use landscaping, and California is the only manual with a

chapter dedicated to avocados. Some manuals, including Iowa, Michigan, and Nevada, have separate reference books on volunteering and on teaching methods, but other states include these as chapters of a single manual. Iowa includes an additional workbook designed to guide EMGV's through questions and answers they will encounter in their volunteer work. Nevada has elected to drop a formal EMGV manual in favor of supplying EMGVs with several textbooks and PowerPoint presentations that cover various horticulture topics. In Wisconsin they have a main training manual and then two follow-up advanced training manuals that cover topics such as horticultural therapy, rain gardens, and butterfly gardening. There are "lumpers" and "splitters" with regard to how chapters are divided. Some manuals contain the basic subject areas with several topics covered. Some divide each topic into its own chapter. For example, Pennsylvania has a separate chapter for compost, while Ohio has it as a section in its soils chapter.

Similarities

Most manuals:

- Are written by Extension professionals and university faculty and staff.
- Have black and white illustrations.
- Contain chapters on: overview of the EMGV program, botany, plant propagation, houseplants, soils, plant nutrition, plant pathology, diagnostics, entomology, integrated pest management, landscape plants, turf, vegetables, tree fruit.

Examples of Innovative Formats

Washington's flash drive is in the shape of a business card, making it easy to transport. Indiana has all of their horticulture publications on the same flash drive as their manual. Colorado's manual is professionally designed and edited, and is available from a third party publishing firm. Nevada provides hands-on lab activities with each of their chapters and provides online access to PowerPoint presentations for each subject area.

Conclusion

Currently, each state independently develops its own curriculum. Given the similarity of many of the manuals, it would be possible to develop a core curriculum to be used across the country. Each state could augment that core curriculum with information unique to their state. Even if states continue to develop their own curricula, a review of this research may provide them with data needed to add an additional component, or to delete an existing component.

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