Cultivating Smart Yard and Garden Practices

Social workers may be confronted with pest problems in homes of their clients, but may not have the training to help. Extension Educator Barb Ogg has taught several social workers how to identify pest problems and what low-toxic controls work best. Social workers from Lincoln Housing Authority, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, Lincoln Public Schools and League of Human Dignity have received assistance. One particularly challenging case in 2002 was a serious cockroach infestation in a substandard rental occupied by a foreign student and his family, including a pregnant wife and two children. A collaboration between Lancaster County Extension, the UNL Pesticide Safety Education Program, Lincoln Action Program and a local pest control professional resulted in a treatment with low-toxic baits, reducing pesticide exposure to the family.

Head Lice Resources You Can Trust

The Head Lice Resources You Can Trust pages on extension’s Web site, workshops, various publications and KFOR telecasts have been sold. The video is the most requested video and received 423,324 hits last year. Not only is it used by homeowners and apartment dwellers, but it is used in pesticide education programs and to train community interns to lower hazards to children in poor families.

One satisfied customer wrote, “You folks have done a heck of a job and are doing a real service for the public generally and more specifically for people like me. I can’t thank you enough for the info.”

Overall, Lancaster County Extension’s insect and pest Web pages received 691,169 hits last year. Staff entomologists responded to more than 2,500 phone calls, 750 walk-in identifications and 400 e-mail requests for information.

“Lancaster County Extension continues to implant ways to serve an increasingly diverse and growing community.”

—Sheila Kepler, Lancaster County Extension Board member

Cultivating Smart Yard and Garden Practices

Gardens and other green spaces help make cities more enjoyable, livable and sustainable. UNL Cooperative Extension plays a vital role in teaching communities about maintaining healthy, diverse and functional landscapes that are energy efficient and less dependent on pesticides.

In 2002, horticulture staff:
- Presented 86 educational programs to groups and through various publications and KFOR telecasts.
- Disseminated information through the media, such as “Garden Gossip,” a weekly column in the Lincoln Journal Star, Lincoln Live on KFOR radio, and Backyard Farmer on Nebraska ETV.
- Answered more than 6,500 telephone calls.
- Diagnosed problems via samples brought to the extension office or on site.
- Continued adding educational resources to the gardening section of Lancaster County Extension’s Web site.

Lancaster County Extension also educates employees in the horticulture field through commercial Horticulture Clinics and Landscape Architect Kim Todd (left) in a video on implementing ways to serve an increasingly diverse and growing community.

—Sheila Kepler, Lancaster County Extension Board member

More than 177 people attended one of Cooperative Extension’s termite workshops presented in five Nebraska cities, including Lincoln.

Cultivating Smart Yard and Garden Practices

In 2002, Lancaster County Extension has developed extensive head lice resources, including printed materials, photos and an award-winning video, “Removing Head Lice Safely.” Recently translated into Spanish and Arabic, more than 1,400 copies of the video have been sold. The video is the most requested video on 5 City-TV and plays more than 20 times per month on Lincoln Cable Channel.

Lancaster County Extension also works with community organizations and industry professionals in disseminating pest control resources and assistance.

Termite workshops developed, organized and taught by extension educators have helped more than 1,200 Nebraskans make better decisions about termite control and be better consumers. A reference manual, Subterranean Termite: A Handbook for Homeowners, is updated annually and can be read on the Internet.

Cockroach Control Manual, written by extension educators, has been widely acclaimed as an easy-to-read manual that teaches low-toxic methods of controlling cockroaches. The online manual is on the UNL Pesticide Education Resources Web site and received 423,324 hits last year. Not only is it used by homeowners and apartment dwellers, but it is used in pesticide education programs and to train community interns to lower hazards to children in poor families.

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The Master Gardener Training Program is a volunteer program where people are given training by University of Nebraska personnel and then in return provide 40 hours of volunteer time to educational extension programs such as: answering horticulture hotline calls; presenting educational programs at workshops; assisting in 4-H and other youth programs; establishing and maintaining community beautification projects. Extension Associate Mary Jane Frogge coordinates the Master Gardener seminars and in return, Master Gardeners provide educational information at public gardens.

In 2002, 45 Lancaster County Master Gardeners logged 2,076 volunteer hours and had 10,995 direct clientele contacts.

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Cooperative Extension — Your Resource for Pesky Pest Problems

“This [termite workshop] is a wonderful public service! It has given me peace of mind and confidence as a homeowner. Thank You! I will be recommending this class to other homeowners.”

— 2002 Termite Workshop attendee