Benton-Linn Counties Master Gardener Plant Problem Scenario Training

2013 Instructor Guidelines

Thanks very much for volunteering your time. Please read these guidelines carefully before conducting your first training.

Your booklet contains plant problem scenarios designed as training aids for new Master Gardener Trainees. Although they contain specific information regarding particular plant problems, their primary focus is not to test the trainees’ knowledge, but to help them hone their investigative and deductive skills. This is a critical point; you should not allow enthusiastic or highly knowledgeable trainees to blurt out the answers before the entire group has a chance to ask questions and research potential answers.

As the instructor, you will use each scenario to adopt a role as a typical Master Gardener client who has stopped by the desk for help with a problem. Your trainees will act as Master Gardeners. You will read the problem to your assigned group and then respond to their questions as the client would. The scenario sheets contain enough information about the various problems so that you will be able to respond accurately even if you are not personally familiar with the plant condition.

Your activity as the instructor will depend on the abilities and knowledge of the group members. If they are on the right track, simply monitor their progress. If they seem stuck, provide help as necessary, but try to limit your help to pointing them toward the proper research materials. The scenarios include references.

You will be given a list of scenarios to cover each day. Spend enough time on each to ensure the trainees have grasped the lessons to be learned on each scenario, but in no case more than 10 minutes each. Remember, you are not teaching them how to deal with the problems…just the methods of diagnosing and researching the problems.

Obviously, part of what they discover in their research will include recommendations for control (and you will have several listed on your scenarios) but try not to spend too much time in discussion of those recommendations.

Please cover only those scenarios assigned each day. The trainees will be assigned to permanent groups who will see different instructors each week, so it will be important to ensure the groups are following the same plan. It is not necessary that you cover every scenario assigned, only that you don’t branch out into unassigned scenarios.

Thanks again.

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