



Master Gardener Demonstration Garden Progress Report
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Tom Green County
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Objective

Landscaping and gardening is particularly challenging in the Concho Valley due to climactic extremes and poor soil and water quality. An attractive landscape increases property value and is of great interest to many local homeowners, and the landscape industry is an important part of the local economy. The Master Gardener Demonstration Garden will show community members different landscaping techniques and ornamental plant varieties that will be more conducive to growing in the local area, and that will require less water, fertilizers and pesticides than traditional methods.

Materials and Methods

The area around the Tom Green County 4-H Center is being utilized for a demonstration garden. The front of the building has been landscaped using xeric plants, and dry creek beds have been created to solve drainage issues and create interest. The north side of the building is currently under construction to expand the landscape demonstrations. Raised beds have been built and pathways will be installed. Beds have been planted both with plants that are known to be drought and heat tolerant as examples for homeowners of recommended plants, as well as trial plants that are currently being evaluated for hardiness.

As many different materials and techniques as possible will be utilized for the demonstration. The garden will be planted and maintained following the Earth-Kind principles and practices, such as the incorporation of compost and application of mulch, so that the public can see the results of using said methods that are recommended by Extension.

Acknowledgements

The agent would like to thank the Concho Valley Master Gardeners for their volunteer service in funding, building and maintaining the demonstration gardens, and the Wolslager Foundation for their support by providing grant funding.



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