

Contribution Report Template  
**NATIVE PLANT EDUCATION**  
Environmental Horticulture Work Team  
Natural Resources and the Environment Core Competency Area  
Program Year 2009

This report details the work individual Agents and Specialists have done to implement the work of a specific work team during the identified calendar year and the results of that work.

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Agent/Specialist submitting report: Barbara Fahey  
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Team Co-Leaders: Steve Newman, Barbara Fahey  
Team Members: Karen Crumbaker, Yvette Henson, Tom Hooten, Joanne Jones, Linda Langelo, Linda McMulkin, Laurel Potts, Joel Reich, Susan Rose, Irene Shonle, Curtis Swift.

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**1. Program Outputs: In regards to this work team's efforts, how many of the following outputs did your local effort result in:**

- 32 Number of Native Plant Master™ courses (one course equals three 4-hour sessions).
- 164 Number of adult participants in Native Plant Master courses who are taking the course for credit to become a certified Native Plant Master
- 203 Number of adult participants in Native Plant Master courses who are not taking the course to become a certified Native Plant Master.
- 16 Number of special classes such as an introductory botany class, landscaping class or weeds class that directly supplement Native Plant Master courses.
- 929 Number of registrants in these special classes.
- 458 Number of current NPM volunteers.
- 28,489 Total direct educational contacts made by NPM volunteers.
- 44 Number of volunteer NPM trainers (volunteer NPM trainers are those volunteers who teach NPM courses).
- 9 Number of trainings conducted for volunteer NPM trainers.
- 2 Number of trainings conducted for Extension Staff.
- 20,177 Total web hits on locally hosted Native Plant Master web sites.
- 8 Number of newsletters distributed in support of this plan of work.
- 10 Number of curriculums developed and /or reviewed that support this plan of work.
- \$5,168 Amount of external grant dollars generated to support this program.
- \$30,809 User fees generated through this program effort.

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108 Different agencies partnered in this program effort. Selected partner agencies are listed below:

Adams County Parks & Comm. Resources	Barr Lake State Park
Bear Creek Lake Park	Bear Creek Nature Center
Betty Ford Alpine Gardens	Bluff Lake Nature Center
Boulder County Parks & Open Space	Broomfield Parks Open Space and Trails
Carson Nature Center- South Platte Park	Castlewood Canyon State Park
Chatfield State Park	City of Boulder Open Space/Mtn. Parks
City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program	City of Fort Collins Neighborhood Services
Colorado City Parks Department	Colorado Springs Parks Department
Colorado Division of Wildlife	Colorado Mountain Club
Colorado Native Plant Society	Colorado State Parks
Colorado State Forest Service	Colorado State Parks Trails Program
Colorado Weed Management Association	Cortez Cultural Center
Crow Canyon Archaeological Center	Denver Botanic Gardens
Denver Parks & Recreation -- Greenhouse	Denver Parks & Recreation Dept
Douglas County Community Development	Douglas County Open Space
Earthlinks	Eagle County Weed Management
El Paso County Parks and Leisure Service	Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society
Fort Collins Retail Nursery	Garden of the Gods
Gardens on Spring Creek	Golden Gate Canyon State Park
Gore Range Natural Science School	Garfield County Weed Management
Grand County	Great Old Broads for the Wilderness
Hawkins Preserve	High Plains Environmental Center
Jefferson County Open Space	Ken Caryl Ranch Master Association
Larimer County Parks & Open Lands	Larimer County Rural Land Use Center
Lookout Mountain Nature Center	Majestic View Nature Center
Mancos Town Tree Board	Mesa County Pest Management
Mesa Verde National Park	Metro Districts Highlands Ranch
Meuller State Park	Mountain Park Environmental Center
National Parks Service	National Wildlife Federation
Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo	Northern Colorado Beekeepers Association
Pitkin County Weed Management	Plains Conservation Center
Poudre Wilderness Volunteers	Pueblo Mountain Park
Pueblo Zoo	San Miguel County Weed Department
SE Colorado Water Conservancy District	Summit County Weed Program
US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region	US Bureau of Land Management
West Greeley Conservation District	WheatRidge Parks, Forestry & Open Lands

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2. **Program Outcomes:** describe the outcomes/impacts that occurred as a result of these programming/educational efforts:

- **Immediate (learning) changes:**

Number of program participants reporting **increased skill** as a result of the program:

Total # of Survey Respondents	# Reporting Change	% Reporting Gain	Increased Skill in:
277	273	99%	Identification of native and non-native plants found in Colorado.

Number of program participants who **increased awareness** as a result of the program:

Total # of Survey Respondents	# Reporting Change	% Reporting Change	Awareness Increased
277	255	92%	Impact of alien weeds and why it is important to control them.
277	264	95%	The value of native plants for sustainable landscaping.

- **Short/medium term (action) changes:**

Number of program participants reporting **behavior changes** as a result of the program:

Total # of Survey Respondents	# Reporting Change	% Reporting Change	Behavior Changed
244	179	73%	Stayed on trails to prevent erosion and damage to native plants.
244	218	89%	Educated others about the value of native plants for sustainable landscaping.
244	170	70%	Left wild plants to produce seed rather than collecting or picking wildflowers.
244	219	90%	Educated others about the impact of alien weeds on native plants.
244	145	59%	Asked for native plants at a local garden center.
206	171	83%	Used CSUE resources (NPM course materials) for efforts to plant natives.
172	133	77%	Used CSUE resources (NPM course materials) for weed control efforts.

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- **Long-term (conditions) changes:**

Number of participants reporting **land condition changes** as a result of the program:

Total # of Survey Respondents	# Reporting Change	% Reporting Change	Acres Impacted (43,560 Square Feet = 1 Acre)	
277	216	78%	103,932	Began or increased planting of natives in a sustainable landscape.
267	195	73%	472,490	Began or increased weed control efforts.

- **Long-term (conditions) changes:**

Number of participants reporting **economic condition changes** as a result of the program:

Total # of Survey Respondents	# Reporting Change	% Reporting Change	Total Dollars Saved	
216	136	63%	\$49,201	Planting of natives resulted in cost savings (from reduced landscape inputs such as watering, pruning, pest control etc.)
195	112	57%	\$151,306	Alien weed control efforts resulted in cost savings (from improved grazing, crop output, ornamental landscapes, wildlife habitat, tourism, etc.)

3. **Public Value:** The public value of the Colorado Native Plant Master Program is to respond to citizen requests for increased knowledge and skills so they can:
  1. successfully identify and use native plants for sustainable landscapes which require reduced inputs such as water, pruning and pest control;
  2. effectively control alien invasive weeds that threaten sustainable landscapes and native ecosystems.

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4. **Underserved Audiences:** Describe successful efforts to reach new and/or underserved audiences locally in this POW area, if any:

County	# Served	Target Audience	Type of Program	New (N) Underserved (U)
NPE Sub-Work Team Counties/Areas*	592 Hispanic (F) 349 Hispanic (M)	People of Hispanic Origin	Native Plant Master credit courses and special classes	U
NPE Sub-Work Team Counties/Areas*	5713 (M)	Males	Native Plant Master credit courses and special classes	U

\*Counties/Areas that participated in the Native Plant Education Sub-Team in 2009: Boulder, Custer, Dolores, Eagle, Garfield, El Paso, Jefferson, Gilpin, La Plata, Larimer, Logan, Montezuma, Morgan, Pueblo, San Miguel, and West Montrose Counties; Tri River and Golden Plains Areas.

5. **Accomplishments/Qualitative Data:** Provide a description of program accomplishments (bullets), a success story, or provide highlights of anecdotal or qualitative data that demonstrates the value or effectiveness of this program effort locally.

Following are selected comments from surveys of Native Plant Master course graduates. If needed, contact B. Fahey for comment attribution. Students that would make appropriate contacts for the program include Rob Pudim, Ingrid Ernst, Ken Bing.

Boulder County

“I am more able to identify plants at work and am more productive in my plant surveys and spraying activities. I also know more about native and alien vegetation and educate others when leading groups for restoration I do for a non-profit organization.”

“As part of my work as a research scientist with a government agency, I need to understand the effects of plant growth on the hydrological and erosional response of burned watersheds. The two Native Plant Master courses I have taken so far have taught me how to use keys to figure out the identity of plants, including exotic species, and to understand reproductive strategies of various plants.”

“As Master Gardener volunteer I advised clients on various issues regarding use of and value of native plants for sustainable landscaping as well as on impacts of weeds on native plants.”

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Custer County

“The information I've gained has given me the information I need to reduce alien weeds on my property, and will affect what plants I use in the future when my property is landscaped.”

“I try to help new-comers to this area understand the value of native plants and weed control to help sustain the natural ecology of this fragile environment.”

“I am more knowledgeable about our native plants and can answer questions when working in my Master Gardener capacity with the public.”

Eagle County

“I teach natural science programs to people of all ages for the Gore Range Natural Science School. The NPM class improved my botany skills and enhanced my understanding of individual plant roles in the ecosystem. I am now able to share this information with thousands of people that attend our programs or visit our nature centers.”

“Influenced our HOA via being a member on the Landscape committee to use natives on the entryway landscaping project at River Valley Ranch. Educated others at the CO Rocky Mountain School Plant sale on natives offered for sale.”

“Helped organize and participated in local "weed walks". Discussed noxious weed infestations with community master associations and managers of the local golf course. “

“I designed the layout for several native plant gardens around the office. This fall we obtained locally grown natives from Rocky Mtn. Native Plant nursery in Rifle and with the help of several other employees we planted approx. 90 specimens, covering over 1000 sq ft of existing landscape. The landscape is considered public land since it surrounds a Federal government office.”

El Paso County

“I am the invasive species manager for Fort Carson Colorado. This class was my introduction to invasive plants on the front range.”

“Serve on a committee to resurrect/restore and expand on a memorial site at the lake of Palmer Lake, CO; this memorial honors a deceased Palmer Lake resident who was a prisoner of war; it was established in 2001, but has since gone into disrepair and neglect; the vision is to have native, self-sustaining landscaping incorporated in a landscape architect's rendering as a war memorial to all local veterans.”

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I lead interpretive hikes at Cheyenne Mountain State Park. I use much of the info from the NPM Class to help educate visitors.”

“I’m a creative nonfiction writer, so I use the information to educate others. I wrote a piece for The Denver Post this year on the importance of educating kids about native plants so that they will be familiar with what Colorado is all about when they grow up (and therefore, be much more prepared to be better stewards!).”

Jefferson/Gilpin Counties

“I did not realize that I had been spraying native plants for years, thinking they were noxious weeds! I really appreciate this class and the help in identifying native plants.”

“As an open space planner, I evaluate acquisition proposals for potential benefits to the open space system. That evaluation includes a site visit. Through my training in the Native Plant Master courses, I am better able to identify native and alien species and to pass this information along to my colleagues including the Natural Resource staff. This benefits the Open Space Program by providing specifics that may prompt further site investigations prior to presentation to the decision makers.”

“I have passed on weed control information to my extended family. I live on a 640 acre ranch which is divided in to individual family parcels. All the family parcel owners understand the importance of weed control. We jointly work on it every year and wow, has it shown. Our oxeye daisy problem is getting under control. Canada and musk thistle too.”

“I have provided noxious weed information to my staff of construction inspectors so they better identify unacceptable vegetation that occurs during land restoration efforts on their project sites.”

“Presented programs at work (at university in biology classes), for Audubon Society, garden societies, Colorado Native Plant Society, field trips for librarians, and in writing a book on the wildflowers and weeds of Red Rocks Park in Colorado; used information as a member of the Board of Directors of the Colorado Native Plant Society.”

“Several years ago I began converting the front yard into native prairie. This course gave me the motivation and information to continue. I like to think my front yard is quiet testimony for the native options available to my neighbors. I plan to put together a plant list and mount it on the fence for walkers to take a look at. I hope it inspires others to include native plants in their yards.”

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Larimer County

“The courses have been invaluable in my work coordinating small grant requests. As a result of the class, I have been able to steer applicants to plant Colorado natives rather than just xeriscape plants, and I have been able to assure that aliens aren't being planted.”

“I volunteer with Home Grown Food. We sponsor a seed swap/plant exchange every year. This year we will be emphasizing locally selected vegetables and promote the use of natives (or regional indigenous) that can be planted and eaten.”

“Use it as part of the volunteer water quality monitoring team for Boulder Creek Watershed Initiative. Three of us on the mountain team are NPM's! I also use it in our home gardening system. It is extremely important to have this information, so one can garden harmoniously with the ecosystem.”

“Promoting native plants and at farmer's markets, explaining alien plants and noxious weeds at farmer's markets.”

“Worked with HOA on plantings for natural riparian area. Volunteer as naturalist with city of Fort Collins. Give talks on native plants and talk about plants on guided nature walks.”

Logan, Morgan Counties/Golden Plains Area

“Many of the days that I teach about prairie ecology I get to use the knowledge I've gained, and in replanting a meadow adjacent to my church.”

“This course has been very valuable in helping to educate neighbors and the community about native plants and native wildlife and the importance of weed control.”

Montezuma, Dolores, La Plata Counties

“Created an exhibit on noxious weeds at the 2009 La Plata County Flower Show - worked with 20 youths landscaping the Animas Museum with native plants.”

“My job is selling native seed for revegetation purposes. Everything I learned has been valuable.”

“Give water-wise gardening talks including much information about using native plants.”

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Pueblo County

“I assisted in teaching a 3 day course at Pueblo Reservoir this summer. Helped the students...identify the different weed and native species. I also am helping a young couple plan their landscape on the 40 acres they purchases near our ranch.”

“I serve on the Landscape Committee at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and advocate for native plants. In the past the University and the City have done 'restoration' relandscaped with invasive grasses. We are also seeking to protect a natural area given to the

University and make it a learning lab for the biogeography and botany courses. As a member of two neighborhood groups, have shared info about natives and also about invasive aliens at neighborhood meetings.”

“I teach online at the community college level--Environmental Science and General Biology. The information is a great way to educate students about the importance of the natural/native environments, and how we can ensure that we are "user-friendly" for species--both plants and animals--around us.”

“Teaching NPM courses in the park where I work has alerted me to where non natives are growing. I have taught thousands of children and adults how to identify native species.”

San Miguel, West Montrose Counties

“At the Ridgway Community garden we plan on planting a high a dry garden in order to teach local Ridgway residents the opportunities to plant native.”

“Using knowledge of native Colorado plants in my studio work, in an attempt to design better more efficient green roofs.”

“I have educated many friends and students about native plants and non-native species. I help with the Telluride Institute and a course called Bridal Veil Living Classroom both geared towards young adults.”

“I have used a lot of the information in my work with landowners and land managers. I have often discussed the need or desire to plant native vs. non native plants and the value that that has.”

Tri River Area

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“I work at a garden center and use every opportunity to educate customers about the value of native plants. Also, I have slowly been increasing the number of native plants available through our perennial department.”

“I work for a division within a company that scouts and treats noxious and other weeds. We are out in the field a lot. The knowledge I have gained helps with identifying native plants; it also helps in training new hires. We also are on the look-out for rare species.”

“I work at a local wholesale grower of annuals and perennials and learning the genus, species and families of the natives has helped me relate better to the perennials that we grow and sell.

I work with student groups at Colorado National Monument, sharing information about native plants is essential. I really enjoyed the level of knowledge and the people I met in the Native Plant Master course. Thank you for supporting such a valuable program!!!”

“The course helped me identify many desert native plants that I did not know and increased my knowledge of native American uses for native plants. I used this information in public educational workshops through my job (county weed manager), especially concerning native thistles vs. non-native thistles.”

6. **Suggested Changes:** As a result of program evaluation, implementation or community input; are there changes or suggestions you have for this work team, its plan of work or the contribution report?

Members of this team would like it to become a Work Team under the Natural Resources and Environment Core Competency Area rather than a sub-team of Environmental Horticulture. A Plan of Work has been submitted.