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18. Native wildflower seed collection in the Owyhee Mountains of Idaho. Love, S. and Salaiz, T. HortScience 42(4):968. 2007.

whereby instilling lifelong behaviors for obesity and chronic disease prevention. A school garden, designed with the active participation of the students, serves as an "outdoor learning environment" that reinforces through hands-on experience the nutrition and horticulture concepts to be presented in class. School gardens offer several additional benefits such as enhancing team-building, student cooperation, and decision-making skills. Cross-curricular learning activities including computer assignments, food sampling, and school wide events were utilized and examined. Additionally, a process evaluation protocol were used to assess the degree to which the program achieves its objectives, which includes activity logs as well as other means. Data on outcome measures of the program efficacy specific to changing the students' eating attitudes, knowledge and behaviors will be reported and include: 1) increased ability to identify fruits and vegetables high in Vitamins A and C; 2) willingness to sample a variety of vegetables and fruits; 3) increased choice of vegetables in the school cafeteria; 4) increased consumption of vegetables approaching USDA recommended intakes, as assessed by three-day Food Diary; and 5) increased physical activity, as measured by pedometer at baseline and during garden activities.

Specified source(s) of funding for the work presented in this abstract: Department, College, State and/or HATCH

(049) The Harvest House Food Pantry Garden: Realizing Cooperative Extension's Goals for Healthy Communities

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The Master Gardener volunteer program plays a unique role in fostering relationships within communities. One such collaboration through the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Master Gardener program in Sussex County New Jersey and the faculty and students of Vernon Township High School exemplifies the goals of Rutgers Cooperative Extension by promoting healthy sustainable communities. Master Gardeners partner with instructors of adult living skills and community organizers of food pantries to produce and deliver fresh vegetables for meal preparation in the community of Sussex, New Jersey. In addition to the basic horticultural training received by students, the garden serves as a focal point for educational programming in food and nutrition, workforce preparedness skills and serves to underscore the importance of a community response to hunger. Through its emphasis on education and healthy living this project emphasizes the core goals set forth by Rutgers Cooperative Extension to ensure healthy lifestyles, provide productive futures for youth, adults and communities, enhance and protect environmental resources, ensure economic growth and improve food safety and nutrition.

(050) Native Wildflower Seed Collection in the Owyhee Mountains of Idaho

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Native, drought tolerant plant materials have potential for use in water-smart landscapes in arid regions of the Intermountain US. However, availability of such native, drought resistant plant materials in the nursery trade is limited. Seed of native plant materials was collected for evaluation and eventual introduction into the nursery trade as water-smart cultivars. Seed collection activities were completed in the Owyhee Mountains of southwestern Idaho during 2006. Specifically, seed of six wildflower genera were sought, including penstemon (Penstemon spp.), paintbrush (*Castilleja* spp.), buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp.), lupine (*Lupinus* spp.), globemallow (*Sphaeralcea* spp.), and Salvia (specifically *Salvia dorrii*). An initial scouting trip was completed May 31 through June 2, during the peak bloom season at the lower to mid elevations. Subsequently, seed collections were completed July 13, 20 and 21. Objectives were met and a total of 64 accessions were obtained, including one or more species from all six genera. Inclusive were three species of *Lupinus*, two of *Sphaeralcea*, six of *Penstemon*, four of *Castilleja*, five of *Eriogonum*, and accessions of the species *Salvia dorrii*. Seed collected during the summer of 2006 will be germinated in the greenhouse in spring of 2007 and subsequently transplanted to field plots at the Univ. of Idaho's Aberdeen R&E Center where accessions will be evaluated for hardiness, adaptation, and horticultural value.

(051) Consumer Preferences and Knowledge of Nutritional Attributes of Pecans

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Pecan [*Carya illinoinensis* (Wangenh.) K. Koch] is the only major tree nut that is native to North America and is an important nut crop for the economy and the history of the United States. Pecan kernels can be sold as whole, pieces, or meal and are commonly used as an ingredient for desserts, candies or ice cream. Until recently they were not considered of value for their nutritional attributes, but the recent discoveries of the health attributes of pecan kernels have prompted growers' associations to start marketing programs to promote pecan consumption and to inform the consumers about the proper ways to store pecan kernels to maintain flavor and quality. The objective of the present study was to survey consumers' knowledge of the nutritional attributes, and storage guidelines. The study was conducted among the attendees of the Annual Texas Master Gardener Conference held in College Station, Texas, in May 2006. A total of 185 attendees completed the survey, corresponding to 34% of the total number of conference attendees (550). Participants were asked to complete a 31-question survey to test their nutritional knowledge, purchasing attitude, consumption and storage preferences of pecan (20 questions). The remaining 11 questions aimed at gathering biographical and demographical information. Results revealed that consumers knew quite well what pecans contain. Over four fifths of survey respondents (83.8%) knew that pecans contain fats. A similar portion (81.6%) indicated that pecans contain proteins. About half the respondents (54%) knew that pecans are a source of minerals and of antioxidants (58.6%). Results from the present study will be used to develop marketing strategies to inform the consumers about the health benefits related to the consumption of pecan kernels.

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Poster Session 23: Growth Regulators in Fruit Production

Tuesday, July 17 **1:15–2:00 pm**

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(097) How Application Times of 2,4-DP Influence Fruit Retention of 'Braeburn' Apples

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The synthetic auxin 2-(2,4-dichlorophenoxy) propionic acid (2,4-DP) is used on apples as a chemical that reduces preharvest fruit drop. The benefits conferred by 2,4-DP appear to be cultivar dependent. Hence, 2,4-DP was evaluated for its effect on 14-year-old 'Braeburn' apple trees grafted on MM 111 rootstock. The orchard was fertilised and sprayed for pest and disease control according to the local standard programme for apples. The trees were trained to palmette and planted