

Progress Reports 2006 Horticulture Community Activities

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

The DREC Horticulture plantings are a public outdoor living laboratory. These plantings are open to the public and are available to view horticulture plant performance under Southwest North Dakota weather conditions. Horticulture tours of the DREC grounds were featured during the Centennial Summer Field Day Program held in mid-July. Assisting with the tour and other activities were, the NDSU Plant Science Dept., NRCS Plant Material staff members, managers of the Lincoln Oakes Nursery and Towner Nursery and DREC Staff. An evening tour was also held in early September that featured a tour of plantings with emphasis on tomato varieties, Hybrid Tea Rose Evaluation, Xeric Plant Study, Herbs and Spice usage, and Ornamental Corn Project.

The Research Center cooperated with the Dickinson High School on a couple of new projects. Herbs and spices were provided to the Dickinson High School for use by Pam Moormann, Family and Consumer Science Teacher, with her International Foods Class. Pam and a couple of her students discussed herb and spice harvesting, drying, storage, and use at our evening tour. Estimated garden produce contributed to DHS included, peppers 15lbs., tomatoes 10 lbs., and herbs and spices 3 grocery boxes. DHS provided greenhouse space for the Research Center to over winter several different perennial flowers and the DHS Horticulture utilized flower cuttings from them for starting new plants.

The DREC also cooperated with DSU students on a pepper breeding and production program. The concrete bunkers at the center were used for the pepper plantings that included peppers started by a DSU Horticulture class and several pepper varieties provided by the NDSU Plant Science Dept. Production data was collected and peppers were donated to DHS and the Stark-Billings County Food and Nutrition Program. Delores Roy with the Extension Food and Nutrition program conducted classes to the general public. The center provided peppers and tomatoes, (20-25lbs.) for salsa classes and 30-35 lbs. of crabapples for jelly making classes. Hopefully collaborative educational activities with community groups and organization will be expanded in the future.