



Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.



LEAF-PRO project funding provided by: Houston-Galveston Area Council & Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



WALKER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



The LEAF-PRO project is an educational outreach effort designed to demonstrate and promote educated, ecologically responsible decision-making through home landscape practices.



The objectives of LEAF-PRO are:
Protection of our environment,
Reduction of solid waste, and
Outreach education.

PROTECTION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

LEAF-PRO supports safe product utilization, wise decision making through integrated pest management principles, reduced use and need of pesticides, the proper disposal of horticultural chemical packaging, accurate application rates, and target species identification.

As a means to practice responsible fertilizer use, we recommend having a soil test performed and utilized. Proper fertilizer applications will assist in non-point source pollution prevention from home landscapes.



Water conservation is encouraged by the utilization of sound landscape principles, plant selection, and water harvesting methods.

REDUCTION OF SOLID WASTE

LEAF-PRO recommendations include the reuse of landscape waste by composting leaves and other plant materials, the use of mulches derived from composted plant material for weed prevention and moisture conservation, and the recycling of used nursery container packaging.

The recycling of household solid waste is included and encouraged in all LEAF-PRO practices. The LEAF-PRO project and Walker County Master Gardeners promote the use of newspapers as mulch and weed inhibitors, and the use of recycled materials in the landscape for improvement of access and esthetic enjoyment.

OUTREACH EDUCATION

LEAF-PRO promotes environmental awareness through education. Community programs are provided throughout the county by way of educational presentations at workshops and civic events, and educational displays at local activities. Information is also provided via print and broadcast media which focuses on educating the public at large.

Practical demonstrations are offered to local groups which inform the public on landscape IPM (Integrated Pest Management), the utilization of recycled horticultural supplies, landscape design and plant selection, greenhouse plant propagation methods and greenhouse IPM.

The LEAF-PRO facilities (Greenhouse, Demo Gardens and Outdoor Learning Center) are utilized to **demonstrate** methods of solid waste management, source reduction and recycling, water conservation, pesticide use/safety/reduction and responsible fertilizer use. These LEAF-PRO facilities greatly enhance our community outreach efforts.

Additional information, tours or scheduling of educational presentations can be obtained by contacting the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Walker County office at (936) 435-2426.

Community outreach education also includes various horticultural focused youth group activities and educational programming options.



The Walker County LEAF-PRO project supports the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Earth Kind Environmental Stewardship Program. The guiding principles of Texas AgriLife Extension Service Earth Kind education is to promote a deep and abiding respect for the environment using the latest scientifically-sound research based information. These include employment of Earth Kind techniques of plant selection and culture to avoid pest problems before they occur and the use of pesticides only as a last resort. If pesticide use becomes absolutely necessary, selection of the most Earth Kind or environmentally responsible product available should be utilized. Earth Kind techniques integrated into everyday practice will benefit families, communities, businesses and the environment.



Remember, "Earth Kind to benefit Human Kind."