

Fruit Tree Training and Pruning

Cooperator: The Orchard Project

“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” Demonstrations are an important key to successful educational programs. They show the university research in real world situations and they help teach people through hands-on learning, not just lectures. Another key factor is that they allow the audience to see the agent getting real work done alongside the clientele, which makes agents more relatable. I conducted a hands-on fruit tree pruning and training workshop for the Orchard Project onsite at their West Vine Street property.

The Orchard Project is a community-based hunger program focused on providing sustainable long-term food sources for individuals locally by planting perennial crops such as small fruits and fruit trees. Currently they have a half-acre orchard at 1211 West Vine Street and one at 110 North Oak in Searcy planted with blueberries, raspberries, muscadines, a variety of apples, mulberries, pears, apricots, plums, and peaches. The location on Vine street is a busy pathway for high school students (around 50) who walk to school every day. This is located in an economically disadvantaged neighborhood and the families struggle to put food on the table. The orchard is there to help provide fresh fruit for anyone, especially the youth on their way to and from school. Their motto is, the trees are God’s, the fruit is yours.

Visit their Facebook page at:

https://www.facebook.com/SearcyOrchardProject/?epa=SEARCH_BOX

The workshop was featured on social media and promoted through the White County Horticulture newsletter, reaching 21003 indirect and 2311 direct contacts. We had thirteen participants at the event.



