

Extension Horticulture Program

2022 Impacts and Updates



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Extension Agent - Horticulture



Inga Meadows
NC State University

Outreach and Education for...

Commercial Nurseries



Home & Community Gardeners



Green Industry Professionals



Master Gardener Volunteers

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County Situation



Population
Growth

Environmental Impacts
Agricultural Impacts



Rural
Character

Program Goals

- 1) Promote biodiverse & ecologically-functional landscapes
- 2) Promote home food production and composting

Landscape & Green Industry

Webinar Series

- Top Turf Insects and Pests
- Landscape Business Problem Solving
- Spotted Lanternfly Update
- ID and Management of Invasive Plants



250

9 CEUs

Extension Gardener **and Other Workshops and Webinars**

- Growing Shiitake Mushrooms at Home
- Native Plants for Creeks and Streams
- Warm Season Crops for Vegetable Gardens
- Fundamentals of Composting
- Pest and Disease Management in Vegetable Gardens
- What's the Matter with My 'Mater?
- Growing Vegetables in Containers
- Pasture Weeds 101 (with Kristina Britt)
- Worm Composting Workshop (10/13/22)



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63

Active Volunteers

1,345

Hours Volunteered (so far)

288

Client Contacts

\$40,283

Volunteer Value

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New Training Class Just Completed!

- 24 new MGVs trained
- Focus for 2023: Rebuilding management structures and program planning
- Reinvigorating the Plant Clinic

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Engaging Master Gardener Volunteers in Applied Research: Lessons Learned from a Basil Variety Trial in NC



Project Background & Implementation

Goal 1

Assess performance of basil downy mildew (BDM) resistant cultivars in a home garden setting

1. Assess disease resistance of BDM-resistant varieties
2. Assess consumer taste preferences compared to 'Genovese'



Project Background & Implementation

Goal 2

Engage volunteers in applied research

1. New opportunities for volunteer engagement
2. Increased flexibility for gaining service hours in 2021 and 2022
3. Connect volunteers with land-grant mission
4. Identify best practices for engaging volunteers coordinating statewide projects



2021 - Pilot Study

- 18 MGVs, 5 Counties, 4 Agents
- Training Webinar held in May

2022 - Expanded Study

- Recruited agents in January meeting
- 50 MGVs and 16 agents in 18 counties

Both Years

- Monthly Zoom meetings for discussions among MGVs and Agents



Preliminary Results

Taste Test



Two prepared recipes + leaf taste test



Rated appearance, aroma, flavor

Preliminary Results

Taste Test

Basil Taste Test Rating Guide

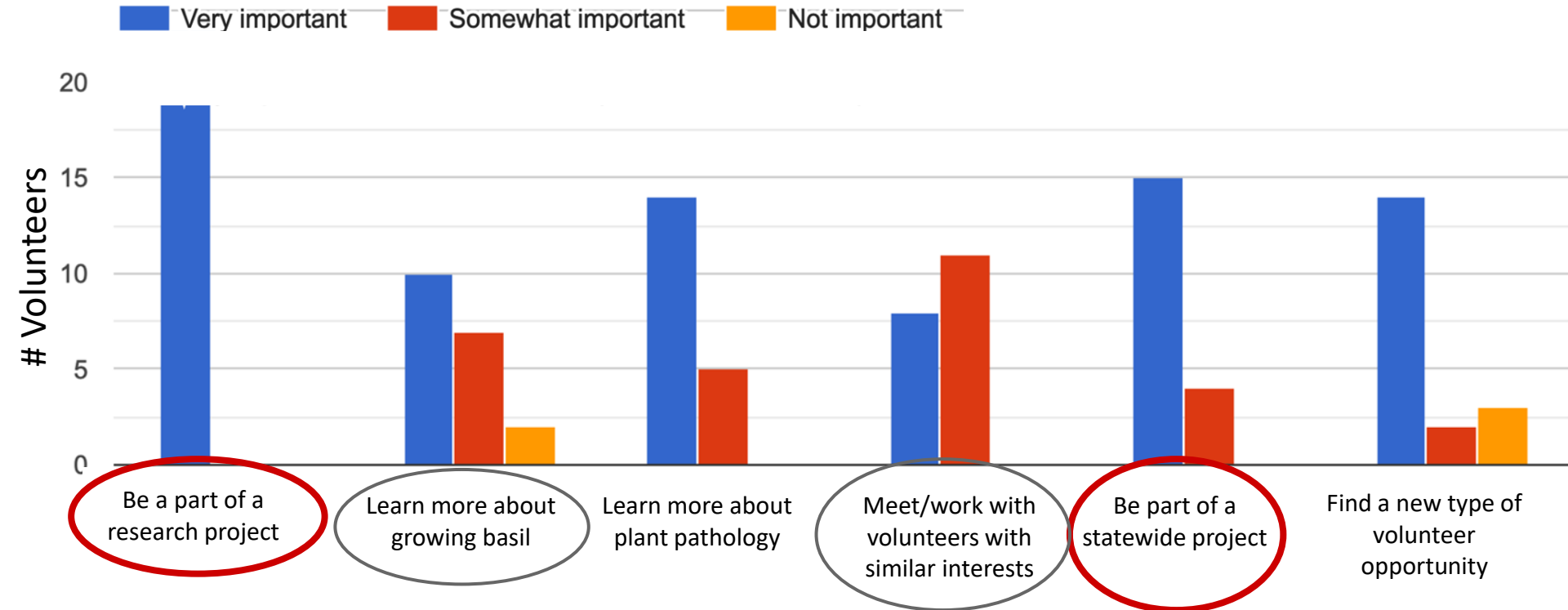
Score	Attribute		
	Appearance	Aroma	Flavor
Undesirable 1	1 Excessive blemishes/leaf spot, unusable; Unattractive leaf shape and color	1 Aroma is unpleasant (strong or too weak/no aroma)	1 Flavor is harsh/spicy/unpalatable for fresh or prepared dishes
Somewhat Desirable 2	2 Some blemishes, would use in prepared dishes such as pesto; moderately attractive leaf shape and color	2 Aroma is pleasant, appetizing	2 Spice is balanced and appetizing when paired with other ingredients/would not use fresh
Most Desirable 3	3 Blemish-free, ideal for serving fresh; very attractive leaf shape and color	3 Excellent aroma; fragrant and most appealing to the senses	3 Spice/sweetness is perfectly balanced for fresh consumption; flavor is appropriately strong, not off-putting



Blind taste test, only facilitator knew cultivar identity

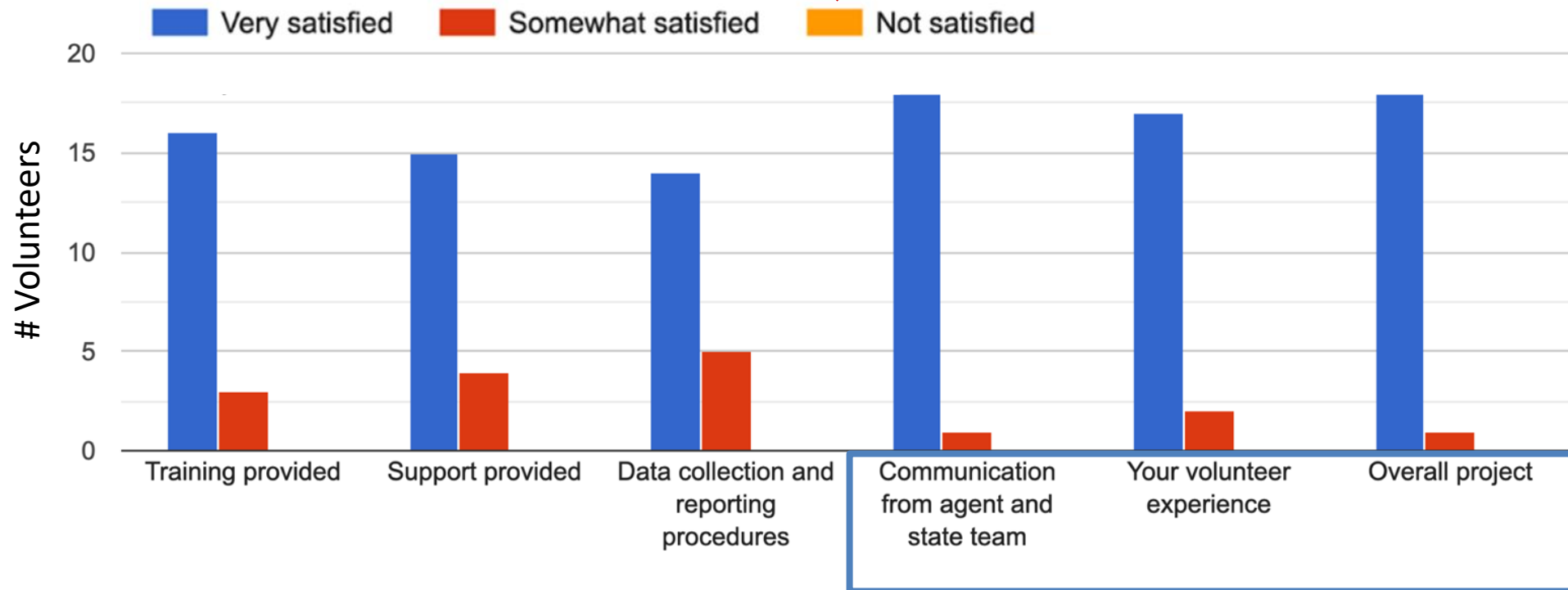
Motivations

How important was each of the following factors in your decision to join this project? I wanted to:



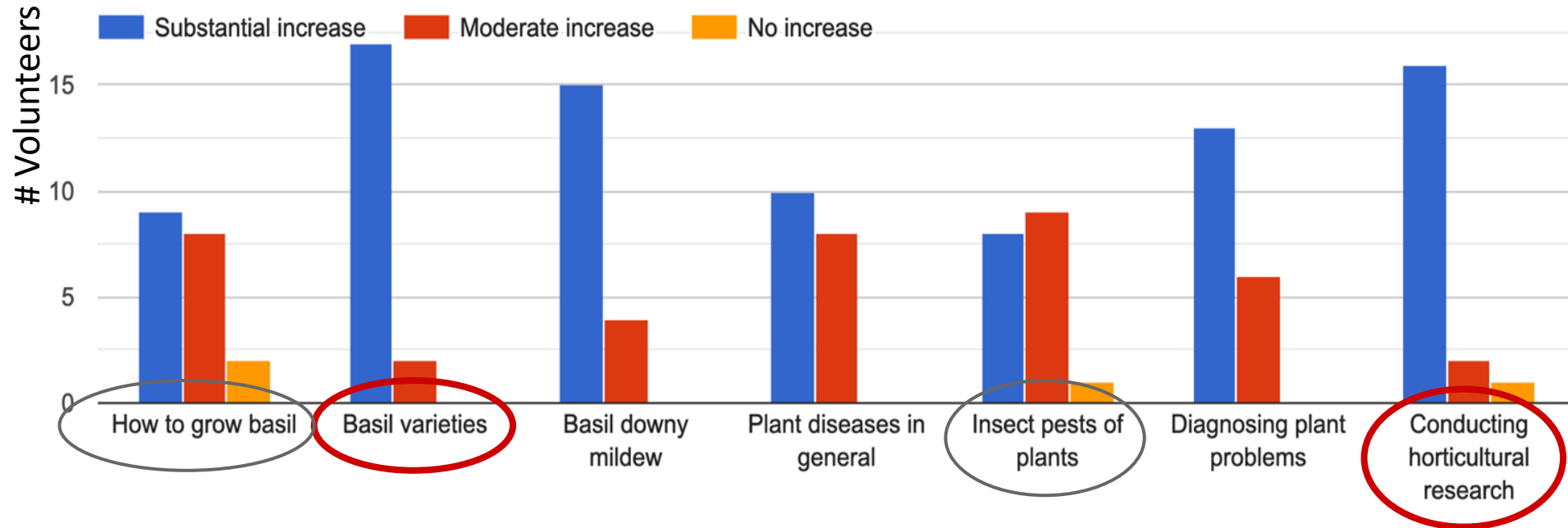
Satisfaction

How satisfied were you with the following aspects of this project?



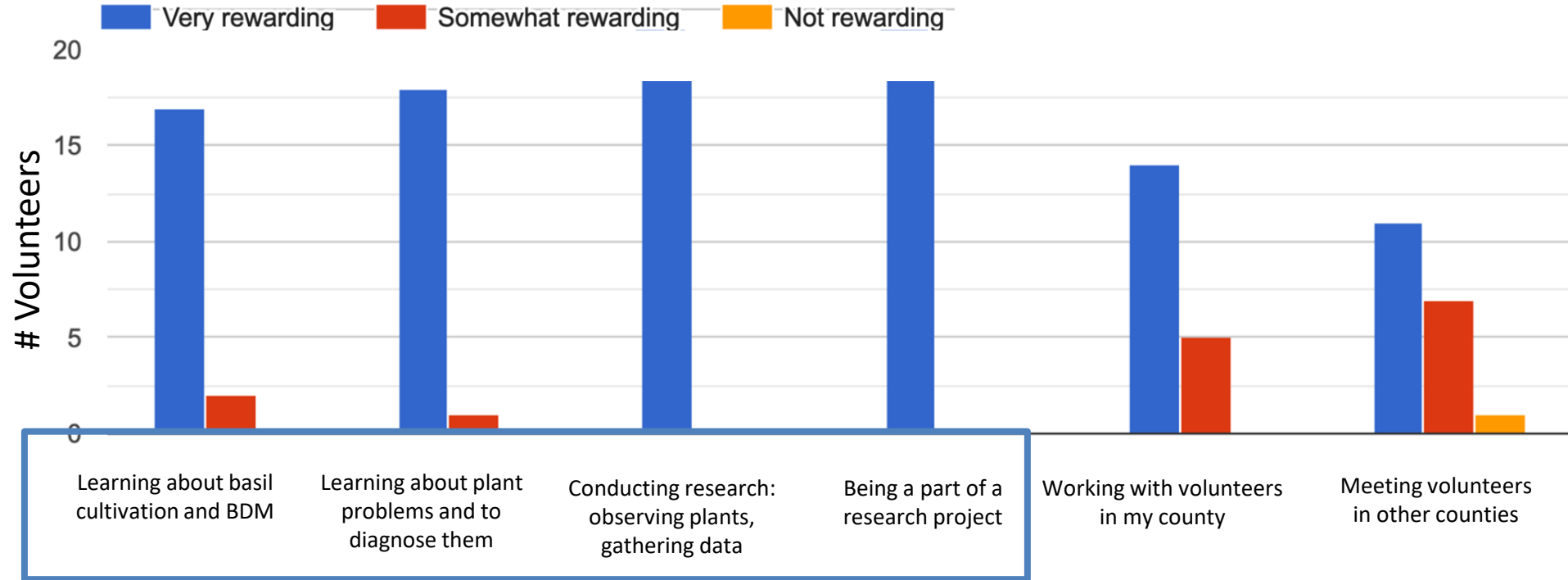
Knowledge Gain

How much did your knowledge of the following subjects increase as a result of participating in this project?



Benefits

How rewarding did you find the following aspects of participating in this project?



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Extension Master Gardener College

October 27 – 29, 2022

James B. Hunt Library,
NC State Centennial Campus, Raleigh



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

go.ncsu.edu/emg-college



ABOUT EMG COLLEGE

Gardening in a Changing Climate: Learn, Grow, Share



Three-day educational conference at the NC State University Centennial Campus in Raleigh

Grafted Tomato Plant Sale

- Bacterial-wilt resistant tomato plants
- Raised over \$2400 to support outreach and education programs

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2023 Preliminary Program Plans

- Survey sent to 1,800 Chatham residents for input
- Met with Horticulture Advisory Team
- Landscape Conference returning in Feb 2023
- Extension Gardener Series Focus
 - Natives and Sustainable Gardening Practices
 - Sustainable Lawn Care and Lawn Alternatives
- Building a more formal EMG management structure

Questions?

Thank you!