



## Benefits of the JMG Program

Results of National On-Line Junior Master Gardener Teacher/Leader Survey conducted by National JMG Program Office & Extension Evaluation Project Team – Department of Horticultural Sciences and Agricultural Education, Texas A&M University



Over 75% of respondents stated that JMG has **increased youth interest in science.**

Over 70% of respondents stated JMG **has enhanced classroom/educational program and contributed to higher academic standards.**



Over 70% of respondents said youth were more enthusiastic about learning

Over 85% of teachers/leaders plan to continue using the JMG program with youth.



64% of teachers and leaders said that **JMG has encouraged students to perform community service projects outside the classroom.**

Over 50% said **youth tried new fruits and vegetables**



Research Projects utilizing the JMG Curricula Conducted by Growing Minds Research Program, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University

- **Significant improvement in eating behavior** was noted with children eating more fruit and vegetable snacks by the end of the study. (Koch, 2001)
- Significant increases **in leadership development and attitudes toward volunteerism.** (Robinson, 2001)
- Preliminary results indicate an increase in minority parental involvement in schools with the JMG program (Boyer, 2001) and increased science academic achievement in public schools that have JMG programs (Klemmer, 2001).

Additional Youth Gardening Studies showed that:

- **increased self-esteem**
- **helped students develop a sense of ownership and responsibility**
- **helped foster relationships with family members**
- **increased parental involvement at school.**

(Alexander, J. & D. Hendren, (1998). Bexar County Master Gardener Classroom Garden Research Project: Final Report. San Antonio, Texas.)

Studies have shown that fifth, sixth, and seventh grade **students developed better interpersonal relationship skills after participating in a garden program.** (Waliczek, T. & Zajicek, J. (1998). The Effect of a School Garden Program on Self-Esteem and Interpersonal Relationships of Children and Adolescents. *Hort Technology* (submitted).)

evaluation