Plant Diagnosis

The function of the plant diagnostic lab is to identify disease-causing pathogens of plants and recommend appropriate treatments for their control. In the human medical field, this is the same function that a physician plays. The lab also tests plants for nutritional deficiencies that may be affecting their growth and development. Soil testing includes pH levels and total soluble salts. Complete soil testing will be referred to the Auburn University Soil Testing Lab.

PLANT DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY. This state-of-the-art facility is staffed with a plant pathologist/diagnostician and offers a place where homeowners and commercial representatives can bring their plants to be diagnosed for a minimal fee. Services include:

• Visual examination for disease as well as for insect, nutritional, cultural, and herbicide problems
• Microscopic evaluation to determine a disease-causing agent
• Tissue culture isolation for various fungal or bacterial identification
• A variety of specific diagnostic tests as needed
• Soil pH testing (Regular soil testing will be conducted at Auburn University.)
• Collaboration with Auburn University’s Soil Testing Laboratory, entomologists, weed scientists, horticulturists, and pathologists

Horticulture

Horticulture is the backbone of the C. Beaty Hanna Horticulture and Environmental Center. Horticulturists work with the large, urban audience to address ways to improve our quality of life with plants and landscape techniques. Research continues to show a direct beneficial relationship between a person’s plants and their life satisfaction and quality of life. The Center is working with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Birmingham Botanical Gardens to better educate the public about how to keep our urban environment healthy.

HORTICULTURISTS. Two full-time staff Extension horticulturists are available to:

• Assist interested clientele through participation in educational programs such as:
  • Master Gardeners
  • Integrated Pest Management
  • Water Quality
  • Best Management Practices
  • Environmental Programs
  • Commercial and Home Landscaping Certification Programs
  • Environmental Programs

• Provide accurate and unbiased research-based information to clientele

HORTICULTURE HOTLINE. 1(800) 644-4458. Staffed with two agent assistants and area Master Gardener volunteers, the hotline is available to:

• Answer clientele questions related to horticulture
• Provide Extension publications upon request
• Answer questions related to urban forestry
• Provide information related to the Urban and Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program
• Inform the general public of the Urban and Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program
• Assist clientele with urban forestry concerns
• Work with local and state groups and organizations to identify best forestry practices

Urban Forestry

Urban forestry improves life in our cities. Trees provide cooling shade, reduce glare, clean the air of pollutants, provide habitat for wildlife, and prevent soil erosion while enhancing the visual aesthetics the way no man-made feature can. Municipalities throughout the state are planting more and more trees to beautify their communities and create a more sustainable environment. The C. Beaty Hanna Center will house an Extension forester to help address this demand.

FORESTER. An Extension forestry specialist is on staff to:

• Provide urban forestry-related educational programs for interested clientele
• Inform the general public of the Urban and Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program
• Assist clientele with urban forestry concerns
• Work with local and state groups and organizations to identify best forestry practices

Urban Forestry and Horticulture

The C. Beaty Hanna Horticulture and Environmental Center is the only urban forestry and horticulture program in the state that offers both urban forestry and horticulture at one location. This unique combination of programs allows for a more comprehensive approach to improving our urban environments.
new era begins at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens as the C. Beaty Hanna Horticulture and Environmental Center officially opens its doors and becomes a first for Alabama. Managed by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the Center serves as a...