

EXTENSION AGENTS AND URBAN FORESTRY IN TENNESSEE

Yujuan Chen¹, De'Etra Young¹, Jason de Koff², and Kofi Britwum³

1 Department of Environmental Sciences, Tennessee State University; 2 Department of Agricultural Sciences & Engineering, Tennessee State University
3 Department of Applied Economics and Statistics, University of Delaware

PERCEPTIONS, PRACTICES, AND TRAINING NEEDS

Most extension agents (98.4%) value urban forests in Tennessee, with 68.9% of them rating urban forests as very important. The top five benefits of urban forests include providing shade and cooling and saving energy, providing aesthetic values/beautification and increasing property values, providing wildlife habitat and increasing biodiversity, reducing flooding or mitigating stormwater runoff, supplying water, and improving water quality, and providing educational and recreational opportunities.



98%
EXTENSION AGENTS VALUE URBAN FORESTS

80%
SHADE & COOLING

77%
BEAUTIFICATION & PROPERTY VALUES

70%
WILDLIFE HABITAT

61%
STORMWATER MITIGATION

61%
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

98% INTERESTED

98.3% of respondents have some level of interest in urban forestry.

63% RECEIVED REQUESTS

63.3% of respondents reported that they had received urban forestry-related requests.

45% KNOWLEDGEABLE

Only 6.7% thought that they were very knowledgeable, and 38.3% thought that they were moderately knowledgeable about urban forestry.

MAIN CLIENTELE

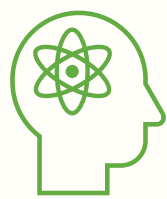
- Homeowners
- Farmers
- Landowners/land managers
- Master gardeners
- Forest owners/managers

BEST COMMUNICATION APPROACHES

- Factsheets/bulletins
- Webinars/workshops/tours/field trips/training
- Social media
- Emails
- One-pagers/infographics

INTERESTED TOPICS

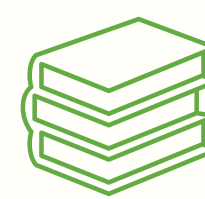
- Tree species selection
- Pest and disease management
- Tree protection/preservation
- Tree pruning/removal
- Tree canopy assessment



KNOWLEDGE LEVELS VARIED BY AREAS OF EXPERTISE.



LEARNING INTEREST VARIED BY AREAS OF EXPERTISE.



INTEREST LEVELS ALSO VARIED BY YEARS OF SERVICE.

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REFERENCES

Chen, Y., Young, D. E., de Koff, J., & Britwum, K. (2023). Extension Agents' Perceptions, Practices, and Needs of Urban Forestry: A Case Study from Tennessee, United States. *Sustainability*, 15(21), 15328.