

The National Gardening Association surveyed the 2011 Mantis Award recipients to capture quantitative and qualitative data on the program’s impact. The following is a summary of the results.

Grant Package: 1 Mantis Tiller

Number of applicants	379
Number of recipients	25
Number of evaluation respondents.....	20

5 winners requested an extension to the report deadline.



Following is a summary of the highlights from those responses.

Total number of program participants:

Ages 2-5 (preschool-K)	317
Ages 6-8 (grades 1-3)	573
Ages 9-11 (grades 4-6)	540
Ages 12-13 (grades 7-8)	150
Ages 14-18 (grades 9-12)	184
Ages 18+ (adults)	629
Total participants	2,393

Cultural Demographics

Caucasian	71%
African American / Black	12%
Latino	10%
Asian	4%
Native American	2%

“There are so many ways the Mantis Tiller has helped our ministry. First, it has helped us weed and lightly cultivate much faster than hoeing by hand. Second, it has put more responsibility and a sense of accomplishment in the hands of the youth.”

- Church Youth Ministry
North Carolina



Other	1%
Female	54%
Male	46%

Eligible for free or reduced lunch program (average):

48% of the participants in the garden program receive free/reduced lunch

Hours per week a participating child/youth was involved in gardening activities:

Average time	4.5 hours / week
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Months of the year respondents conducted gardening programs:

Average time	7 months / year
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Type of organizations responding:

Nonprofit agency	55%
Public school	20%
Community Garden	20%

Types of audiences participating in these programs:

Community gardeners	80%
In-school	70%
After-school	60%
Summer program / Camp	60%
Church/youth group	40%
Special needs	35%
Intergenerational	30%
Youth Club	25%
Home School	20%
Preschool / Head start	20%
Gifted and talented	5%

** Programs also cited working with at-risk youth as well as low-income youth and seniors.*

Location classification of winners responding:

Urban	30%
Suburban	30%
Rural	40%

Program continuation:

100% of respondents indicating they plan to continue their program next year.

Reported evidence documenting the effectiveness of these gardening programs:

Positive responses from participants	85%
Positive responses from administrators	65%
Positive community responses	90%
Positive responses from family members	80%
Donations and financial support	70%
Positive survey results	30%
Awards and recognition	5%
Increase in attendance	25%
Decrease in disciplinary actions	15%
Improvement in test scores	5%

** Participants also noted positive responses from the local food shelf and increases in emergency food supplies for families in need.*

Program leaders noted participant improvements in these characteristics:

Environmental attitudes	95%
Community spirit	90%
Social skills	80%
Volunteerism	95%
Self confidence	90%
Nutritional attitudes	95%
Motor skills	55%
Leadership skills	75%

Attitude towards school	55%
Scholastic achievement	25%

Approximate amount of money spent on these gardening programs:

Less than \$250	0%
Between \$251 to \$500	10%
Between \$501 to \$1000	20%
Between \$1001 to \$1500	15%
Between \$1501 to \$2000	0%
Between \$2001 to \$2500	10%
Over \$2501	40%

Approximate value of in-kind donations of these gardening programs:

Less than \$250	5%
Between \$251 to \$500	0%
Between \$501 to \$1000	20%
Between \$1001 to \$1500	15%
Between \$1501 to \$2000	10%
Between \$2001 to \$2500	15%
Over \$2501	30%

Average percentage of funding these programs received from other sources:

Grants	50%
Donations	20%
Fund Raising	11.5%
Parent of Volunteer Organizations	4%
School or School District Funds	2.5%
Instructor's pocket	4%
Other	3%



“Before the tiller, gardeners would use a pitchfork and hoe to till their plots. This was difficult because some gardeners are handicapped and elderly. The community members are very grateful for the tiller.”

- South Chicago Art Center
Illinois



“The tiller was a great help in preparing beds. Our garden was on a piece of fallow ground that was extremely hard and compacted. The tiller made it possible to amend the soil with compost and sand to make the heavy clay soil workable. This was the second year we planted in these beds and last year the plants did not fair well. This year, our healthy soil contributed to our plants growing even larger. We have also enjoyed a plentiful harvest of vegetables, far beyond our expectations. We are just at a point now where we will be tilling the soil again to plant our cool weather crops. We also used the tiller to mix our starting soil for these cool weather plants. This made it easy to break up the peat and mix in the compost, soil and vermiculite.”

- Mulberry Community Gardens
Colorado