New sustainable gardening manual published

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Aug. 27, 2010
CONTACT: Debbie Carter, Cooperative Extension information officer, 907-474-5406, dscarter@alaska.edu

Fairbanks, Alaska—The Cooperative Extension Service has published a new comprehensive gardening manual.


The 490-page manual, which sells for $40, is a basic gardening text. It also offers information on soils and fertilizers, propagation, berry crops, pruning, composting, flowers, greenhouses and season extenders, lawns, plant diseases, pesticides and integrated pest management. The manual is a good resource for home gardeners and also will be used as one component in Extension Master Gardener training programs.

Michele Hebert, Extension’ Tanana District agriculture and horticulture agent, contributed to the manual. She said gardeners need additional information to capitalize on the benefits of and overcome the challenges involved with growing vegetables and flowers in the far North.

The manual focuses on sustainable gardening practices, a holistic method for growing plants that is good for the environment, good for families and good for the community, said Hebert. “It takes a minimal input of labor, water, fertilizer and pesticides while building the soil into a healthy living system. A thoughtful balance is made between the resources used and the results gained.”

Other contributors to the manual include current and former Alaska Extension faculty Stephen Brown, Jeff Smeenk, Tom Jahns, Robert Gorman, Fred Sorensen, Julie Riley, Heidi Rader, Bob Wheeler, Peter Bierman and Jay Moore.

Copies may be ordered through Extension’s toll-free line, at 877-520-5211.

- 30 -

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS: Michele Hebert, Agriculture and Horticulture agent, 474-2423 or mahebert@alaska.edu.

ON THE WEB: www.uaf.edu/ces