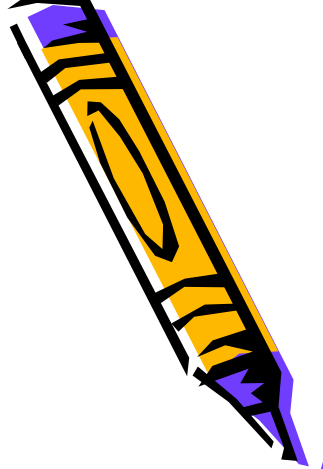
2003 Southern Region Water Quality Conference
Ruidoso, New Mexico

Lisa Whittlesey
National Junior Master Gardener Coordinator

Junior Master Gardener®
growing good kids℠



Our Mission: Growing good kids by igniting a passion for learning, success, and service through a unique gardening education.

Junior Master Gardener®

growing good kids℠

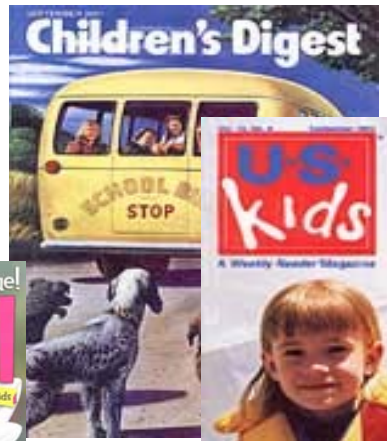
May 2001

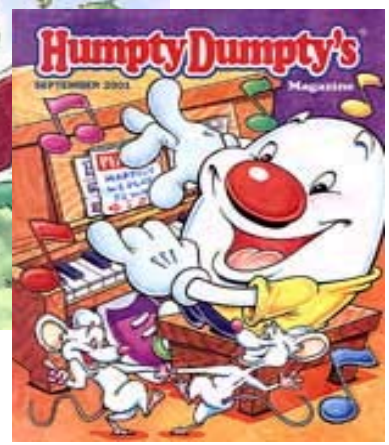
7614 youth registered
255 registered groups
27 states represented
848 youth certified
17 state partners

2003 JMG IS…

- Over 1000 Registered JMG groups
- Over 39,000 youth formally registered
- Over 980,000 youths impacted
- JMG in all 50 States, 10 countries
- 30 State Partners
- 1 International University Partner – South Korea

JMG in the news!





Southern Living

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

HGTV
HOME & GARDEN TELEVISION

NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION

JMG Updates!

Partnerships:

- National Wildlife Federation
- Nursery/Landscape Associations
- State Departments of Agriculture
- State Master Gardener Programs
- National Gardening Bureau

Corporate Partners

Minute Maid

- free kids gardening tools
  www.jmgkids.org/minutemaid
- Good Kids Garden Grants Program
- C3 Marketing

Program Evaluation

National On-line Survey for Leaders

Conducted by Texas A&M University Department of Agricultural Education, Texas 4-H Office, and National JMG Program Office

Preliminary Data Shows:

- 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

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Program Evaluation Continued

- Over 70% of respondents said youth were more enthusiastic about learning
- Over 50% said youth tried new fruits and vegetables
- Over 80% of respondents rated the overall effectiveness of the JMG program as effective or very effective

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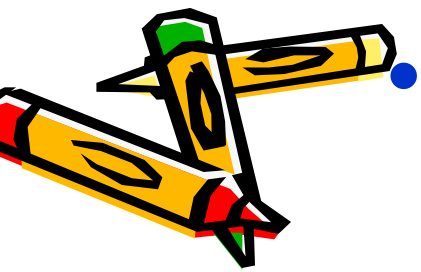
University Research Projects

- Texas A&M University
- Purdue University
- Louisiana State University
- Kansas State University
- University of Minnesota



Igniting a passion for learning

"The response from students, as well as parents was overwhelming…
I have enjoyed the program more than anything I have ever taught.
Kary Thigpen - Teacher

Igniting a passion for learning

"It enhances the student and teacher

learning process…serves as a

catalyst for student interest in science."

JMG Group leader response

National JMG Leader Survey

Igniting a passion **for service**

Leadership and Community Service Projects

Igniting a passion for service

"The children **were thrilled** to be working on something that will last … they were excited that they were able to do this for the community."

Alice Phillips
JMG Coordinator
Midland and Ector Counties

Igniting a passion for service

"The children are learning far more than what the ground can produce… they are learning to be active participants in their community to help their fellow man.

Gonzalo Salazar – Principal
Los Fresnos Consolidated ISD

Igniting a passion for success

For *all* students
The JMG program currently serves students in public school, home school and private school settings
over ***51% are ethnic minorities.***

Igniting a passion for success

Hometown Schools

URBAN GARDENS

Arlington High ag students bring environmental exercises to South Davis

"The high school students gain a better understanding of the concept being taught…they enjoy teaching horticulture and environmental science and have learned a greater respect for the teaching profession."

JMG Group Teacher

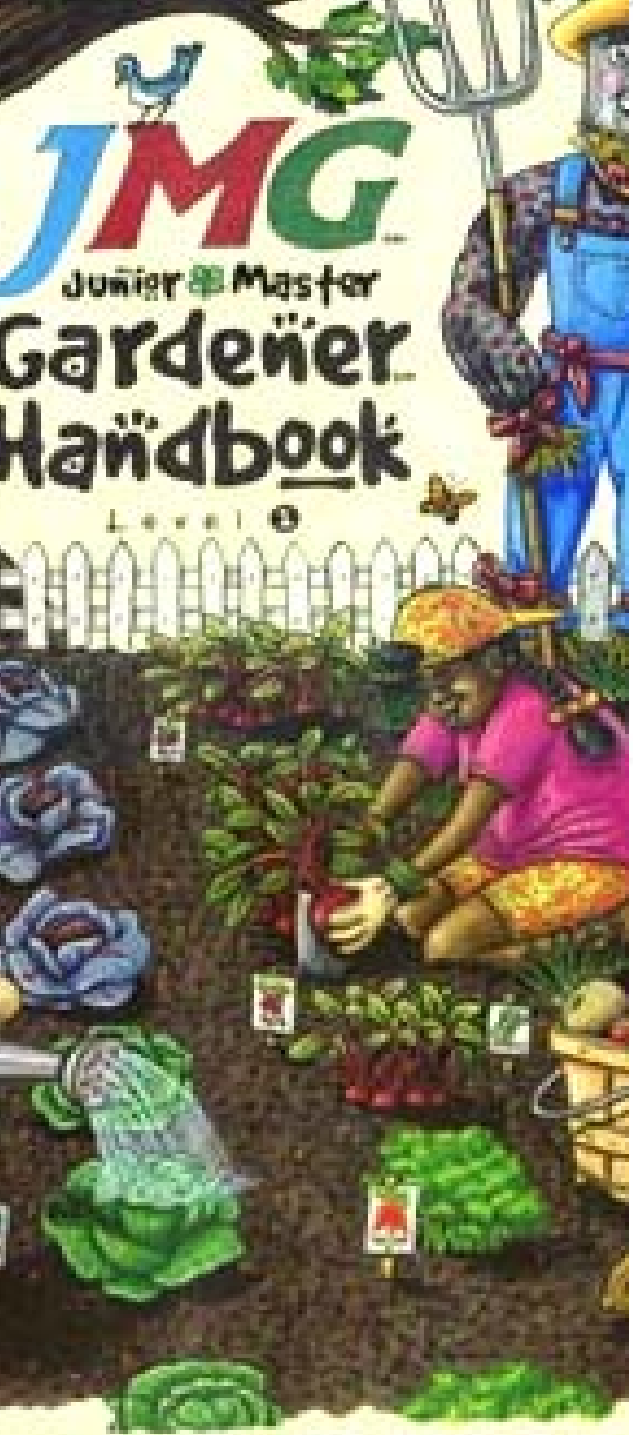
Igniting a passion for success

Certification

Junior Master Gardener®
Level One
Core Curriculum

JMG Youth Handbook

Teacher/Leaders' Guide



Contents

What about teaching standards?

Play with Your Food, J. Elffers,1997

JMG Golden Ray Curricula

- Health & Nutrition from the Garden
- Wildlife Gardeners
- Literature in the Garden

Junior Master Gardener sm

Operation Thistle: Seeds of Despair

Operation WATER: Dr. Thistle Goes Underground

Mission 1: The Cliff Caves of Red River Canyon

AGENT 9 ::

Two Hover Pods were discovered near a cave entrance in the cliffs of the Red River Canyon. We have reason to suspect that several of Thistle's Cocklebur Scouts are gathering deadly Sicklescurge plants that grow at the base of the cave walls. They are hanging the plants upside down near the entrance to preserve the poisonous blooms.

We have no idea what the connection is between these plants and our beloved Queen Flora, but our instincts tell us they are not a token of Thistle's undying affection. We've provided you with a customized Milkweed Mach 4 Transport which should enable you to achieve a top speed of Mach 4 while maintaining absolute silence. You will use this to travel back and forth between the mission locations and JPI Headquarters. As always, we will provide you with objectives designed to give you the knowledge and skills required to complete your mission while also maintaining your cover. Now get going! There isn't much time! You must complete one of the objectives on the following page for the mission to be a success ▶▶

Mission 1:
The Cliff Caves of Red River Canyon

Importance & Uses of Plants

Objective Accomplished

Plant Plastic

Hanging Stems

Mystery Web Objective

Red River Canyon Area

Red River Canyon

Objective 1

After locating the Cocklebur, use the plastic you'll make from the exercise below. While it is still warm, use it to attach a homing seed to the underside of one of their hover pods.

This seed is our only hope of precisely locating Thistle's secret lab. Make sure it is transmitting. When the seed reveals the whereabouts of the lab, you can sneak in and rescue the queen!

Hover Pod

Homing Seed

Homing Stem

Transmitter

Plant-plastic

You may not be aware of the many ways you can use plants or products made from plants everyday. Agent 9, did you know that plants are even used to make some plastics? You can make your own homemade plastic from corn!

You will need:
2 tablespoons of corn starch
2 tablespoons of water
2 drops of corn oil (or any type of vegetable oil)
Sealable plastic bag

Drop ingredients into sealable plastic bag and mix together. Microwave on high for 20 seconds. Allow the mixture to cool and remove from bag. (Be careful of the steam Agent 9!) Ask a friend or family member if they have ever heard of plant-plastic. Show them the plastic and explain how it was made.

Objective 2

Cocklebur have very poor eyesight so carefully replace the groups of hanging Sicklescurge with handfuls of colorful cave weeds. Among your equipment, Agent 9, you'll find a green homing stem that transmits a signal we can locate by satellite. Just insert the stem into the bundle of cave weeds. The Cocklebur will return to Dr. Thistle's hideout with the worthless weeds and with any luck the homing stem will reveal the location of the lab and you can sneak in and rescue the queen!

Hanging Stems

Plants are valuable to our lives in so many ways. Plants provide food for all living things. They are used to make clothes we wear, they provide the materials to build the homes we live in, and plants even supply the air we need to breathe. There could be no life on earth without plants. Besides providing for just our basic needs, plants also have aesthetics-that-lick! value which means they add beauty to our lives. Even the simple beauty of a blooming flower has been appreciated throughout time. You can preserve a flower's bloom for many years if you follow some simple steps.

Deadly Sicklescurge

The oldest and simplest method of drying flowers, Agent 9, is to hang dry them. Group your flowers into small bundles of 3 to 5 stems and tie with a rubber band. Tie the bundles to a coat hanger so that the blooms are upside down and allow them to dry for a few days. Dried flowers can be hung on a wall, used to fill a basket to decorate a shelf or even used to top a gift package.

JMG

Want more, Agent 9?

Complete a third mission objective at www.operationthistle.

How to start a JMG group?

- Contact Youth
- Establish Site for youth to meet
- Order JMG Material
- Complete Registration Packet

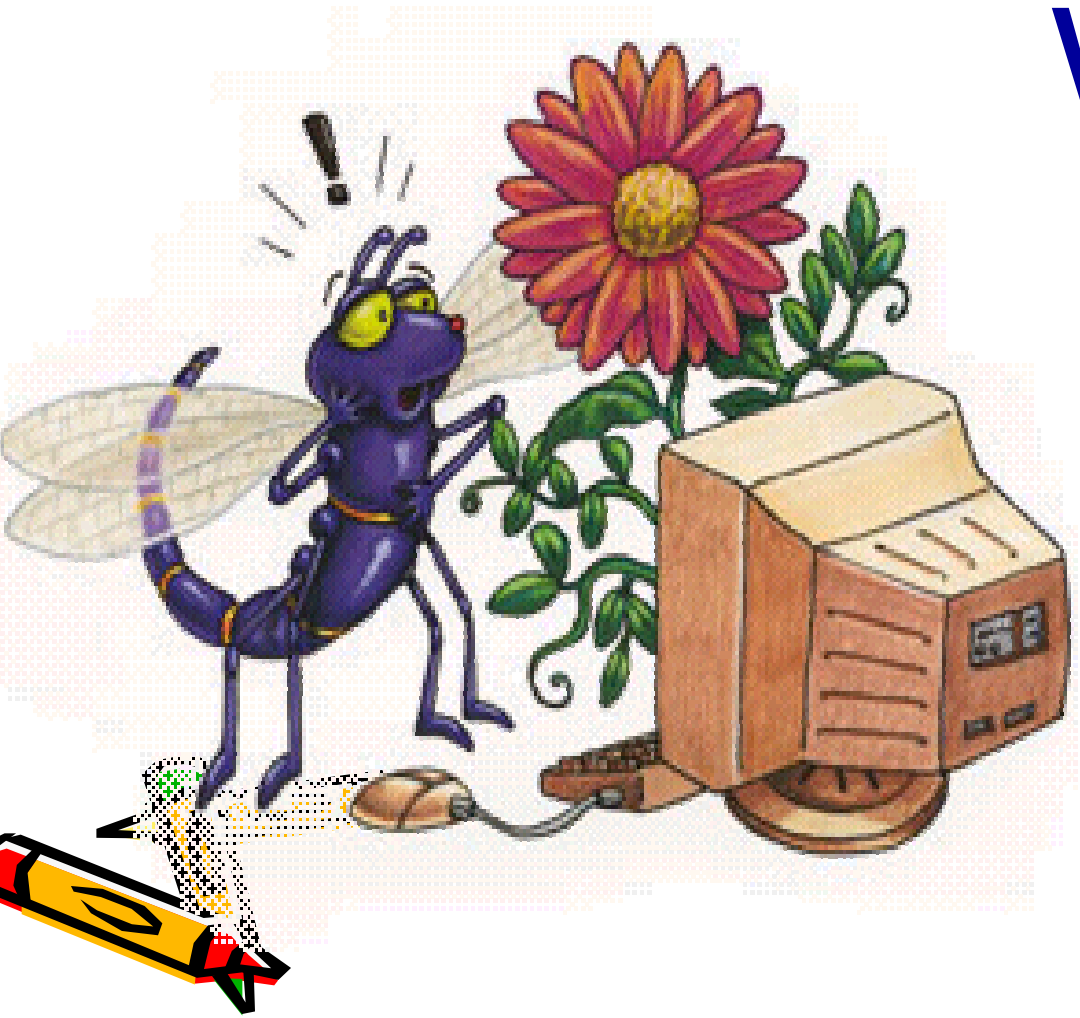
Cost involved in starting JMG programs ?

- **Curriculum costs**
  - quantity discount
  - not every member needs a youth handbook to be in a registered JMG group
- **Cost of activity supplies**
- **Cost of garden supplies**

For more information:

www.jmg

kids.org



I hope this program stays for a long time and teaches kids like me because it gives us the chance to help a lot of people and learn how important plants are for us to live.

Andres Garcia
Foster Drive JMG Kids

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