Seven new fact sheets were written for a total of 619 fact sheets on the HGIC website. Updated pesticide recommendations were added to 13 fact sheets. Topics of these fact sheets range from landscaping, indoor plants, and vegetable gardening to food safety and nutrition.

In addition, 578 fact sheets, 123 educational documents and 68 user’s guides were mailed to South Carolina citizens last year.

Award Winning Fact Sheets
HGIC 1090, Summersweet Clethra
SCACAA 3rd Place Publication

HGIC 2325,
Annual Bluegrass Control
SCACAA 1st Place Publication
Website Hot Topics

Each month timely topics are featured in this section of the website. This **proactive approach keeps the residents of South Carolina informed** on topics that are frequently asked about by clients. The plant topics range from proper plant care to a wide range of insect and disease problems. The food safety and nutrition topics are geared towards helping citizens make wise food choices, safely prepare and preserve food, and maintain an overall healthier lifestyle. Hot Topics are available in a printer-friendly format.

Pesticide Recommendations

The HGIC assisted the Clemson Plant Problem Clinic with **20 insect pest control recommendations** for residential landscape problems. These replies included relevant information on the life cycle of the insect pest, and cultural and chemical pest control measures.

Drought Updates

To keep South Carolina residents up to date with the drought situation, updates are provided on a weekly basis from April to November using data from the USDA-NASS South Carolina Field Office.

Food Recalls

These updates provide easy access for South Carolina residents to know which food recalls could affect them. Last year, 98 food recalls were listed on the HGIC website. During times of a major food recall the Clemson University home page, local news websites and radio stations would promote this feature on the HGIC website.

SCLTA 35th Annual Conference & Trade Show

An HGIC staff member served as the Master of Ceremonies at the 35th South Carolina Landscape & Turfgrass Association (SCLTA) and Clemson University Annual Landscape Contractors, Turfgrass Management & Grounds Maintenance Conference and Trade Show at the South Carolina State Fairgrounds in Columbia, SC. There were **760 people in attendance**.

Phone Calls

The HGIC received **22,058 calls** through our toll-free lines. 13,055 calls came through between the hours of 9 AM and 1 PM. Of those, approximately 5,000 calls were answered by a horticulture or food safety specialist.
Upstate Master Naturalist Program
Graduates 20 Students

The Upstate Master Naturalist Program graduated its fifth class on November 3rd in the Cherokee Worldview Garden in the South Carolina Botanical Garden on the campus of Clemson University. During the 12-week course the class of 20 students visited the upstate’s finest natural areas including Table Rock State Park, Kings Creek, Burrell’s Ford, Jones Gap State Park, Stumphouse Tunnel, Oconee State Park, Caesar’s Head State Park, Jocassee Gorges, Jumping Off Rock, Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve, Lake Conestee Nature Park and the Clemson Experimental Forest.

The graduates of the program now have the opportunity to participate in many different types of volunteer activities. These might include assisting in a nature outreach program at a park, museum, nature center or school; assisting a scientist collecting bird census data; collecting data on water quality or many others. They also have the opportunity to continue learning by participating in advanced training and other activities offered by the Upstate Master Naturalist Association. All 20 students have joined the association bringing the current membership to nearly 100 Upstate Master Naturalists.

The Upstate Master Naturalist Program is one of seven host sites offering this Clemson Extension program statewide. The Upstate program is a partnership between the South Carolina State Park Service, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Offices in Pickens, Oconee and Greenville Counties.

The mission of the South Carolina Master Naturalist Program is to create a corps of citizen volunteers well trained in the fundamentals of natural history, nature interpretation and the interface of humans and nature in order to empower them to contribute their time and talents to responsible, science-based environmental stewardship.
Sustainable Small Farms & Backyards

This program covered Beekeeping, Livestock, Forages, Fruit and Vegetable Gardening, Soil Fertility and Marketing. It was a 6 week program. It educates small farmers and homeowners on how to grow their own crops and sell the excess at the Farmer’s Market. 90% of participants said they gained new knowledge from this program and 90% planned to change the way they garden/farm as a result of this program.

Pickens, Oconee, and Anderson County Master Gardener Program

This program offers research-based horticultural information in an exciting and educational format. Participants then use their new knowledge to serve the local communities by educating others. 34 students attended the course and 14 students graduated as Certified S.C. Master Gardeners. 95% of participants said they gained new knowledge from this program and 90% said they planned to change the way they garden at home as a result of this program.

Carolina Yards & Neighborhoods

This program covered 9 principles that decrease the time spent managing the landscape, reducing dollars spent on irrigation and fertilizer. Students learn how to create an attractive and healthy yard by working with South Carolina’s environment, rather than against it. 95% of participants said they gained new knowledge by participating in this program. And 90% said they planned to change the way they care for their landscape as a result of this class.
Home Canning Safety
With renewed interest in growing local foods, comes increased interest in preserving foods at home. The HGIC provides up-to-date information on how to safely preserve foods by canning, drying and freezing. The fact sheets Choose the Right Canner for Home Canning and Canning Food - the pH Factor were written in response to numerous calls from consumers who stored food in jars without knowing how to process it safely.

Heirloom Seed Program
The Heirloom Vegetable List consists of open pollinated (non-hybrid) vegetable varieties. The South Carolina Crop Improvement Association’s goal is to preserve these irreplaceable garden seeds. Heirloom vegetable seeds have been passed down from generation to generation for over 50 years. With time, these seeds have developed a natural resistance to many diseases and pest problems. Heirloom seeds give home gardeners the opportunity to be self sustaining by saving seed each year. And heirloom seeds provide a diverse gene pool for future seed breeding.

Your Day Radio
The HGIC staff participated in 4 Your Day Radio call-in shows in 2010/2011. Through this show staff members were able to assist South Carolina residents with landscape and plant problems. Your Day radio airs Monday through Thursday from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm EST. on 8 public radio stations and is available online through live web streaming.

Carolina Gardener Magazine
An HGIC staff member served as the Midland Regional Reporter for Carolina Gardener magazine. Monthly reports feature things to do for the lawn, trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetable garden. Carolina Gardener magazine is written by and for Carolina gardeners. Over the years the Carolina Gardener magazine readership has expanded across the Southeast.

Spanish Fact Sheets
Fact sheets on basic food handling topics are available to meet the needs of Spanish speaking residents.
Home & Garden Information Center Overview

Website Data
- 2,449,686 page views

Fact Sheets
- 5 new fact sheets added
- 617 total fact sheets available

Hot Topics
- 25 new hot topics

Radio and Print
- 4 Your Day radio call-in shows
- 9 Magazine columns

Pesticide Recommendations
- 20 insect pest control

Food Recalls
- 98 food recalls listed

Phone Calls and Mailings
- 22,058 calls received
- 13,055 received between 9AM and 1 PM
- 5,000 calls answered by specialists
- 578 fact sheets mailed
- 123 misc. educational documents mailed
- 68 HGIC user’s guides mailed

Drought Updates
- Posted weekly Apr. - Nov.

Programs
- SCLTA Tradeshow
- Master Naturalist Course
- Master Gardener Course
- Carolina Yard & Neighborhood
- Sustainable Small Farms & Backyards
- Heirloom Seed Collection