

Barriers to Home Fruit and Vegetable Gardening in Ohio

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Home gardening is increasingly being used as a strategy for improving individual and community food security, but very few studies have been conducted to investigate what factors prevent individuals from engaging in this activity. The objective of this study is to identify what barriers exist for home gardening among different demographic groupings in the state of Ohio. These groupings are based on income, homeownership, employment, gender, education level, and place of residence. The data used for this project comes from the 2008 Ohio Survey of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Issues and bivariate analysis was conducted using SPSS Statistics. The most notable correlations exist between higher income groupings with time as a barrier, homeownership with cost as a barrier, and females with lack of knowledge as a barrier. These findings will be able to inform efforts that aim to involve more people in edible gardening at the domestic scale for the purpose of improving individual health and increasing community resiliency against climatic or environmental changes.