

## **County's Smart Gardening Webinars Celebrates Two Major Milestones**

Los Angeles County reached two special milestones in April 2021 for its Smart Gardening program webinars and commemorated with prize drawings during two designated webinars. The program reached over 2000 attendees for the year and held over 100 webinars since inception. The County began webinars in June 2020, switching over from in-person workshops that were suspended in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The free Smart Gardening webinars proved to be popular, about doubling the average attendance of the workshops. Generally, the webinars were capped at 150 registration, resulting in attendance of 50 or so persons which helped keep questions and answers manageable.

To celebrate the occasions and show appreciation, the Smart Gardening program hosted two separate opportunity drawings for attendees to win gardening supplies. At its Small-space Gardening bilingual webinar on April 10th, 2021, attendees were entered to win 100 seed packets to commemorate the program's 100th webinar. Registration was doubled resulting in double the attendance. Ten randomly selected winners won 10 seed packets each. Participants also had the opportunity to learn how to grow plants in containers and set up a small-space worm composting system at home.

Having reached its 2000th attendee in mid-April for 2021, the program hosted at its May 1st, 2021, Introduction to Composting webinar a drawing of a worm or backyard compost bin of choice to two winners. Again, registration and attendance doubled approximately, and the live webinar taught residents about backyard and worm composting to create a rich soil amendment to nourish their gardens.

The Smart Gardening Program aims to teach residents sustainable practices in improving their lawns/garden and reducing organic waste by offering free live webinars on: Introduction to Composting, Small-space Gardening, Organic Gardening and Water-wise Gardening. The County is in the process of coming up with more ideas to promote the program. One such idea is to create a photo contest for participants to post pictures on the program's social media platforms showing residents practicing what they learned. This sharing of photos will help to promote the program and introduce others to smart gardening techniques. To learn more about smart gardening and to register for free webinars, visit [smartgardening.com](https://smartgardening.com). For any questions, email the program managers at [smartgardening@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:smartgardening@pw.lacounty.gov).