Sarasota County
UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability

SARASOTA COUNTY EXTENSION delivers valuable programs and resources across core areas to help people, businesses, and neighborhoods in Sarasota County solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future.

AGRICULTURE
• Small- to large-scale commercial agriculture
• Urban and rural agriculture
• Community food systems
• Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises program
• Disaster readiness and recovery

SUSTAINABILITY
• Energy efficiency
• Solar technologies
• Electric vehicles
• Green building
• Green living
• Universal design, visitability
• County employee education

NUTRITION / HEALTHY LIVING
• Disaster preparedness/awareness
• Home-closing education
• Food preservation skills/knowledge
• Food safety awareness
• Nutrition/aging health and mobility
  • Family Nutrition Program (FNP) food budgeting
  • Financial tools education (FNP)
  • Nutrition exposure (FNP)

4-H / YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
• Group activities, clubs and camps
• Tropicana Public Speaking Program
• Positive youth development
• Life skills
• STEM education
• Career readiness
• Citizenship, Leadership
• Volunteer training/development
• Experiential learning opportunities

NATURAL RESOURCES
• Water quality/conservation education
• Florida Master Naturalist Program
• Florida Microplastics Awareness Project
• Florida Waters Stewardship Program
• Backyard Landscaping for Wildlife Program
• STEM education and outreach
• Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
• Recycling and waste reduction
• Composting education and awareness
• Mangrove, coastal conservation
• Integrated pest management education

GARDENING / LANDSCAPING
• Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ outreach
• Master Gardener Landscaping volunteer program
• Community and school gardens
• Continuing education, licensing for lawn and landscape professionals
• “Treejuvenation” urban/community forestry program
• Homeowner irrigation evaluations
• Homeowner association consultations
• Plant Clinic help desks
• Urban/landscape pest identification

Some of our programs:

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2020 Impacts

Helping clients is our most important role.

61,645 clients educated through classes, field visits, phone calls, emails or other direct consultations

566,640 connections through web visits, blog posts, and social media interactions

$11,272 estimated annual savings from energy-saving devices distributed to area homes

1,494 students received lessons and activities in nutrition, healthy living, and gardening topics

1,771 area youth received education, experience and expertise through 4-H clubs, programs, and activities

130 rain barrels distributed with Sarasota County partners, capable of diverting 4.4 million gallons of rain from storm sewer system yearly

4,990 lbs. of food waste diverted from landfills through home composting education/projects

And our latest client survey* shows:

94% of clients satisfied

89% benefited from contact

77% of issues resolved

* UF/IFAS Program Development & Evaluation Center, 2016 data

355 Extension and Sustainability volunteers provided 16,980 hours of service, worth $431,812 in labor

SARASOTA COUNTY EXTENSION
partners the resources of Sarasota County, the University of Florida, and the United States Department of Agriculture to provide a wealth of information through myriad opportunities, including:

« Classes, workshops and events »
« Plant Clinic plant and pest advice »
« Neighborhood consultations »
« Free home irrigation evaluations »
« Volunteer and citizen science programs »
« Community/School garden expertise »
« Newsletters and digital publications »
« Speakers bureau »
« Sustainable lifestyle/community education »
« Educational curricula and resources »

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