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

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)

SUSTAINABILITY
- Energy efficiency
- Solar technologies
- Electric vehicles
- Green building
- Green living
- Universal design, visitability
- Sustainable events
- Sustainable economic development
- County sustainability commitments
- County employee education

4-H / YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
- Group activities, clubs and camps
- Florida 4-H public speaking
- 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 volunteer program
  - Community and school gardens
  - Continuing education, licensing for lawn and landscape professionals
  - Homeowner irrigation evaluations
- Homeowner association consultations
- “Treejuvenation” urban/community forestry program
- Plant Clinic help desks
- Urban/landscape pest identification

Some of our programs:

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Helping clients is our *most* important role.

- **33,285** clients educated through classes, field visits, phone calls, emails or other direct consultations
- **747,295** connections through web visits, blog posts, and social media interactions
- **$42,000** estimated annual household savings from energy-saving devices and education
- **868** students received lessons and activities in nutrition, healthy living, and gardening topics
- **311** area youth received education, experience and expertise through 4-H clubs, programs, and activities
- **182** rain barrels distributed with Sarasota County partners
- **11,886** lbs. of food waste diverted from landfills through home composting education/projects

And our latest client survey* shows:
- **93%** of clients satisfied
- **95%** benefited from contact
- **81%** used Extension information

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**328** Extension and Sustainability volunteers provided **12,595** hours of service, worth **$359,466** 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 »

* UF/IFAS Program Development & Evaluation Center, 2021 data

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