



tomatoes



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## Want to Become a UF/IFAS Extension Florida Master Gardener Volunteer?

If you are a resident of Sarasota County, contact our Master Gardener Volunteer coordinator at 941-861-9900 or email [sarasota@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:sarasota@ifas.ufl.edu).

### Program Timelines

The recruiting process begins in September with interviews held in October. Communication on acceptance status typically occurs in October of each year.

# Join Our Community of Gardeners!

## UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County

<http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/>

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UF/IFAS EXTENSION  
SARASOTA COUNTY

FLORIDA

MASTER

GARDENER

VOLUNTEER





## What Are UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardener Volunteers?

The Florida Master Gardener Volunteer Program is a volunteer-driven program that benefits UF/IFAS Extension Offices and the citizens of Florida. The program relies on dedicated volunteers who have an interest in gardening and in giving back to their communities.

### Mission

To assist Extension Agents in providing research-based horticultural education to Florida residents.

### Vision

To be the most trusted resource for horticultural education in Florida.

## What are the Benefits?

- *Grow* your leadership skills.
- *Reap* the benefits of new friends.
- *Weed* out poor gardening habits.
- *Conserve* knowledge and water.
- *Plant* new passion in your community.
- *Sow* seeds for eating well with a new generation in school gardens.
- *Fertilize* your brain by learning about new gardening topics and techniques.

## What Do UF/IFAS Extension Florida Master Gardeners Volunteers Do?

Master Gardener Volunteers work through their UF/IFAS Extension county office to educate Floridians and provide research-based information about gardening—America's most popular pastime. Volunteers can fulfill their volunteer hours in a variety of ways, including:

- answering horticultural questions over the phone, in person or at local events,
- participating in community and school garden projects,
- giving educational programs to the public and perform soil evaluations,
- help propagate plants for the annual Florida-Friendly® plant sale, and
- certifying Florida-Friendly® yards through the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program.

## What is Required of a UF/IFAS Extension Florida Master Gardener Volunteer?

To become a Master Gardener Volunteer you need an interest in gardening, a willingness to learn, and a desire to help others learn. New Volunteers serve 75 hours within the first year of their certification. Volunteers can renew their certification by participating in 15 learning hours and completing 50 volunteer hours each additional year. They must also adhere to the Volunteer policies. Our Sarasota training program is offered once each year from mid-January through mid-April.