

Shared Spaces: Community Gardening

Community gardens and composting: a natural pairing for “Shared Spaces” in your neighborhood. Community gardening builds connections between neighbors, and offers the chance to stay active and grow healthy food. Composting community gardens waste reduces the amount of yard waste sent to landfills and yields a steady supply of free, nutrient-rich, soil amendments for gardeners. But, how do you get started and keep going with this dynamic duo?

We can help.

Our “Neighborhood Best Practices” program provides tips and techniques on creating community gardens and composting initiatives, along with efficient irrigation, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™, preserves, wildlife, protecting our local waterways, and much more. Register online at tiny.cc/ufsaraext_nbp to make a difference in your neighborhood.

Steps to Create Shared Spaces: Community Gardening



Community Garden Benefits

- Promotes physical activity, healthy eating, sense of well-being and economic benefit
- Increases access to fresh food
- Supports food security
- Creates agricultural awareness
- Increases plant and animal biodiversity
- Provides educational opportunities



Community Garden Types

Communal

Shared space, tended and harvested by group; typically for education or demonstration, like school gardens

Allotment

Individual plots designated to members; common spaces tended by group



Shared Spaces: Composting

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Steps to Create Shared Spaces: Composting



Composting Benefits

- Improves tilled soil and structure
- Increases soil ability to hold water and nutrients
 - Supports living soil organisms
- Helps return organic materials to the soil
- Keeps food waste out of landfills



Composting Types

Hot/Traditional

Breakdown of organic materials by microorganisms, requiring balance of carbon-rich “browns” and nitrogen-rich “greens”

Vermicomposting

Using red wigglers, earthworms or other worms to compost



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