

# 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
- Sustainable events
- Sustainable economic development
- County sustainability commitments
- 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 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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# Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability

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** »