Demonstration Gardens in the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service

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The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension Service (UF/IFAS Extension) supports a network of demonstration gardens throughout the state. These gardens showcase plants and practices appropriate for their locations and are open to the community free of charge. Learning opportunities abound for home gardeners and landscape professionals on design, planting, and maintenance procedures. The gardens typically have interpretative materials available, including signs, brochures, and self-guided tours. Many are sites for gardening festivals, workshops, and plant sales.

The conception, creation, and maintenance of the gardens differ, but each one represents a unique collaboration between UF/IFAS Extension and local municipalities, environmental agencies, Florida’s nursery industry, plant societies, and/or the UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardener volunteer program. Philanthropic donations, grants, memberships, and sponsorships provide additional funds for some of the gardens. Most of the gardens are maintained by Master Gardener volunteers under the supervision of county Extension faculty, while some gardens use salaried staff.

Most of the gardens demonstrate the principles of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) program, emphasizing environmentally friendly (Florida-Friendly) approaches to landscape design and maintenance. For more information about the nine FFL principles, visit http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/.

Listed below by county are the UF/IFAS Extension demonstration gardens. Many are located at county Extension offices or UF/IFAS Research and Education Centers, while others are situated elsewhere in the community.

**Alachua County**

**Westside Park**
NW 34th St. and NW 8th Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32609
(352) 955-2402
http://alachua.ifas.ufl.edu

Located at Gainesville's Westside Park, this garden is open to the public and provides residents with a demonstration of Florida-Friendly plants, mulching, and low-maintenance landscaping techniques. The small garden is sponsored by UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County and the City of Gainesville. It is maintained by UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County Master Gardeners and highlights native plants for north central Florida (Figure 1).
**Groundcover Demonstration Garden**
UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County
2800 NE 39th Ave
Gainesville, FL 32609
(352) 955 2402
http://alachua.ifas.ufl.edu

This demonstration planting of more than 30 groundcovers for Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ is open to the public at the UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County office. This garden highlights the best Florida-Friendly groundcovers for north central Florida and is maintained by UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County Master Gardeners.

**Vegetable Gardening Demonstration**
UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County
2800 NE 39th Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32609
(352) 955 2402
http://alachua.ifas.ufl.edu

This garden, maintained by UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County Master Gardeners, demonstrates raised-bed gardening of seasonal vegetables and herbs, as well as composting, year-round.

**Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Demonstration**
Cofrin Park 4810 NW 8th Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32605

A demonstration of Florida-Friendly plants and low-maintenance landscaping techniques is incorporated into the Survivors of Suicide Memorial Garden at Cofrin Park in Gainesville, Florida. This garden is made up of 100% native plants and highlights spring flowering trees.

**Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Demonstration**
UF Straughn Center
2142 Shealy Dr.
University of Florida Campus
Gainesville, FL 32611

A complete Florida-Friendly landscape compliments this LEED-certified building, which serves as a conference center and the state headquarters of the UF/IFAS Extension 4-H Youth Development Program. This landscape was designed by University of Florida (UF) professor Gail Hansen and other UF Florida-Friendly experts. It highlights Florida-Friendly plants and low-maintenance landscaping techniques. Also on site is a large rain garden and a side-mounted 1500-gallon cistern. QR codes and plant labels add to the educational experience of this garden.

**Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Demonstration**
Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) Headquarters
301 SE 4th St.
Gainesville, FL 32601

A Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ planting was installed at the main entrance and the West parking lot of the GRU headquarters in downtown Gainesville. These plantings demonstrate native perennials, efficient irrigation techniques, and low-maintenance landscaping principles.

**Baker County**

**Baker County Arboretum & Teaching Gardens**
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County
1025 W. Macclenny Ave.
Macclenny, FL 32063
(904) 259-3520
http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/

This teaching garden (Figures 2 and 3) at UF/IFAS Extension Baker County showcases sixty-one trees (forty-two different species and cultivars) and serves as an outdoor classroom for forestry students and the general public alike. Visitors to the garden can also view seasonal wildflowers, a butterfly garden, and a composting display. The garden is free and open to the public during business hours. Additional information can be found on the UF/IFAS Extension Baker County website.
Bradford County

Eastern Black Swallowtail Butterfly Walk

City of Starke Recreation Department Thomas Street Complex
801 East Thomas St.
Starke, FL 32091

The butterfly walk contains four raised box planters, each with butterfly plants that provide habitat or food for all stages of the eastern black swallowtail life cycle. This educational butterfly walk has informational signs (Figure 4) located at each planting box that describe each stage of the butterfly’s life cycle. The butterfly walk encircles the baseball field, is wheelchair-accessible, and has benches (Figure 5) for observation and relaxation.

Brevard County

Brevard Botanical Garden

UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County
3695 Lake Dr.
Cocoa, FL 32926
(321) 633-1703
http://www.brevardbotanicalgarden.org/

In June 2013, the Brevard Botanical Garden was awarded one of twenty-five Viva Florida 2013 grants by the Florida Wildflower Foundation. The Brevard Botanical Garden established a 5,000-square-foot “Lakeside Pollinator Garden” (Figure 6) just inside the garden’s entrance. The Lakeside Pollinator Garden is open to the public by appointment as of now, but plans are to develop the 5+ acres adjacent to the UF/IFAS Extension office into a demonstration garden to promote an increased appreciation of our environment. This garden will seek to inspire, support, and educate the public.
community about horticulture through UF/IFAS research-based demonstrations, collections, and displays.

**Broward County**

**Winter Flower Trial Garden**  
UF/IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center  
3205 College Ave.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33214  
(954) 577-6300  
http://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/trial_garden/index.shtml

From November through April, researchers plant new varieties of annuals and evaluate them for commercial growers. Anyone is free to tour the garden when the research center is open.

**Charlotte County**

**Demonstration Garden**  
UF/IFAS Extension Charlotte County  
25550 Harbor View Rd., Suite # 3  
Port Charlotte, FL 33980  
(941) 764-4340  
http://charlotte.ifas.ufl.edu

Organized in 2006, this large garden is a showcase for landscape plants and techniques that demonstrate UF/IFAS research-based information and Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles (Figures 7 and 8). This living teaching tool also includes a compost demonstration and raised bed gardens. The garden is open any time for visitors and is regularly staffed by UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners on Tuesdays from 8 am to 10 am.

**Citrus County**

**Florida-Friendly Learning Landscape**  
UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County  
3650 W. Sovereign Path  
Lecanto, FL 34461  
(352) 527-5700  
http://bocc.citrus.fl.us/commserv/extension/extension_services.htm

The half-acre garden is wheelchair accessible and features a pathway that meanders through a wooded area with a water display and other exhibits (Figure 9). Signs and handouts explain how the garden portrays the nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles.
Clay County
Demonstration Gardens
UF/IFAS Extension Clay County
2463 State Road 16 West
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
(904) 284-6355
http://clay.ifas.ufl.edu

This garden at the UF/IFAS Extension Clay County office/Agricultural Center (Figure 10) features an extensive shade garden with native plants, an outdoor classroom, an herb garden, a butterfly garden, a hummingbird garden, a propagation station (Figure 11), a demonstration beehive, and a demonstration wildlife habitat. Master planning completed in 2013 will see the addition of new demonstrations over the next three years including demonstrations of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles, a turfgrass and groundcover demonstration, a pollinator/integrated pest management demonstration, UF/IFAS Extension 4-H youth garden projects, and demonstrations of citrus, berries, and other options for small farms.

Collier County
Southwest Florida Horticultural Learning Center
UF/IFAS Extension Collier County
14700 Immokalee Rd.
Naples, FL 34120
(941) 353-4244
http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/HomeGarden/HortLearningCen-
ter.shtml

Based on Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles, this garden (Figures 12 and 13) was developed at UF/IFAS Extension Collier County to support educational programs in horticulture, gardening, landscape design, and natural resource management. It features small theme gardens including a native plant garden, a UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardener color garden, a succulent garden, a vegetable/recycle garden, a garden of the senses, a butterfly
garden, and a hydroponic and aquaponics demonstration greenhouse.

**Demonstration Garden**
UF/IFAS Extension Duval County
1010 N. McDuff Ave.
Jacksonville, FL 32254
(904) 255-7450
http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/

The demonstration garden at UF/IFAS Extension Duval County includes Florida-Friendly plant material, a vegetable garden, and a demonstration of trees suitable for planting under power lines.

**Superior Street Vegetable and Herb Demonstration Garden**
(Behind) 1007 Superior St.
Jacksonville, FL 32254
(904) 255-7450 387-8850
http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/

Located near the UF/IFAS Extension Duval County office, this garden showcases vegetable varieties and herbs recommended for the area and highlights various growing techniques (Figure 15).

**Heritage Garden**
381 Beach Blvd.
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
(904) 255-7450
http://beachesmuseum.org/home.php

UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners plant and maintain a historic kitchen garden that demonstrates sustainable Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ practices.

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**Duval County**

**Mandarin Demonstration Garden**
2892 Loretto Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32223
(904) 255-7450
http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/

This demonstration garden, planted by UF/IFAS Extension Duval County Master Gardeners, incorporates Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles and includes native plants (Figure 14), ornamental grasses, a butterfly garden, a perennial bed, a ginger bed, and a vegetable bed.

**Figure 13. Southwest Florida Horticultural Learning Center.**

**Figure 14. Native Azalea in the Mandarin Demonstration Garden.**

**Figure 15. Trailing Rosemary in the Superior Street Vegetable and Herb Demonstration Garden.**
Escambia County
Demonstration and Learning Garden
UF/IFAS Extension Escambia County
3740 Stefani Rd.
Cantonment, FL 32533
(850) 475-5230
http://escambia.ifas.ufl.edu/

UF/IFAS Extension Escambia County Horticulture and Master Gardener programs created this garden as a resource for the community. The garden demonstrates UF/IFAS research-based horticulture practices and features plants that are adapted to the coastal southeast. Special theme gardens include therapeutic garden beds (Figure 16), a tropical garden, ornamental grasses, evergreens, Japanese maples, herbs, and a butterfly garden (Figure 17).

Flagler County
Shade Garden
UF/IFAS Extension Flagler County
150 Sawgrass Rd.
Bunnell, FL 32110
(386) 437-7464

The Shade Garden at UF/IFAS Extension Flagler County (Figures 18 and 19) showcases vibrantly colored plants specifically selected for shade tolerance, low maintenance, pest resistance, color, and texture. Visitors to the garden are drawn to the many colors and elements within while enjoying the noticeably cooler air the shade provides.

Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center
See Broward County.
**Gadsden County**

**Gardens of the Big Bend**
UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center
155 Research Rd.
Quincy, FL 32351
(850) 875-7100
http://nfrec.ifas.edu/gardens.shtml

Gardens of the Big Bend is a new botanical and teaching garden located on the grounds of the UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center in Quincy. Gardens of the Big Bend is a series of gardens, each with a theme or plant focus. The Discovery Garden contains more than 300 species or cultivars of new, improved, or underutilized trees, shrubs, perennials (Figure 20), and annuals. Our Magnolia Garden is part of the National Collection of Magnolia in recognition of its more than 100 species and cultivars, including some of the rarest magnolias in the world. Our “Jurassic” and conifer gardens feature more than thirty conifers and cycads. Other trial and demonstration gardens feature crape myrtle, hydrangea, perennials, and shrub roses.

![Figure 20. UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center Perennial Trial Garden](image)

**Highlands County**

**Highlands County Demonstration Gardens**
UF/IFAS Extension Highlands County
4509 George Blvd.
Sebring, FL 33875
(863) 402-6540
http://highlands.ifas.ufl.edu

UF/IFAS Extension Highlands County is planning and actively soliciting funds for a demonstration garden to be located behind the Bert J. Harris Agricultural Civic Center in Sebring. The initial gardens in this project will be completed in the spring of 2014 with a final completion date scheduled for the spring of 2015. This project is being spearheaded cooperatively by the Residential Horticulture department, UF/IFAS Extension Highlands County 4-H, and UF/IFAS Extension Highlands County Master Gardeners. The finished garden will include a 4-H butterfly garden, a Florida-Friendly plant identification garden, and Master Gardener herb and medicinal garden. Future plans allow for a multifaceted vegetable garden featuring raised beds, hydroponics, aquaponics, and containerized, traditional, and handicapped-accessible gardens. The garden will initially encompass a 75- by 120-foot area that will include a 30- by 40-square-foot outdoor covered pavilion. Florida-Friendly paving will line the pavilion and small paths.
Hillsborough County
Bette S. Walker Discovery Garden
UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County
5339 County Road 579
Seffner, FL 33584
(813) 744-5519 ext. 54105
http://hillsborough.ifas.ufl.edu/residential_lg/walker_garden.shtml

The Bette S. Walker Discovery Garden (Figure 21) is a teaching garden that serves as a living lab illustrating the nine environmental principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™. The garden features many plants and non-plant elements including several water features, different kinds of pavers and mulches, trellises, and other decorative features. Themed gardens include a bird and wildlife habitat, a Florida backyard BBQ garden, a sensory garden, a Florida-Friendly area, and an Asian-influenced garden.

Perennial Garden UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County
5339 County Road 579
Seffner, FL 33584
(813) 744-5519 ext. 54145

This garden features butterfly plants and perennials that thrive in central Florida. Plants in the garden (Figure 22) have been selected to attract beneficial insects, pollinators, and wildlife. A self-guided scavenger hunt utilizes QR codes and allows visitors to learn more about attracting wildlife with plants.

Teaching Garden and Arboretum
1200 N. Park Rd.
Plant City, FL 33563
(813) 757-2286
http://gcrec.ifas.ufl.edu/pcc/gardens.shtml

The teaching gardens at the UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, Plant City Campus (Figure 23) provide a learning center for horticulture students as well as the general public. More than 250 labeled trees, palms, shrubs, and ground covers are displayed. Specialty gardens feature native plants, ornamental grasses, butterfly/hummingbird plants, palms, and other tropical plants. A 90-foot pergola displays flowering vines. Other features include a 1-acre arboretum of shade and flowering trees, and demonstrations of low-maintenance roses and alternative vegetable gardening.
Demonstration Gardens in the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service
See St. Lucie County.

Lake County

Discovery Gardens/Horticultural Learning Center
UF/IFAS Extension Lake County
1951 Woodlea Rd.
Tavares, FL 32778
(352) 343-4101
http://lake.ifas.ufl.edu/discovery-gardens/

The Horticultural Learning Center is situated on a 4.5-acre site that contains the 3.5-acre Discovery Gardens/Horticultural Learning Center public garden and a 1-acre plant evaluation area. The garden includes twenty theme/display gardens, each designed to show a different gardening aspect in central Florida (see images at http://lake.ifas.ufl.edu/discovery-gardens/tour-gardens.shtml). The gardens feature more than 600 different plants and demonstrate Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles.

Lee County

Demonstration Gardens
UF/IFAS Extension Lee County
3406 Palm Beach Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33916
(941) 461-7500
http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu

The grounds at UF/IFAS Extension Lee County contain five theme gardens featuring herbs, butterfly plants, palms (Figure 24), plumerias, and a grape arbor. These gardens are maintained by UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners.

Demonstration Landscape
Cape Coral Historical Museum
544 Cultural Park Blvd.
Cape Coral, FL 33990
(239) 461-7526
http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu

This garden (Figure 25), located at the historical museum, features Florida-Friendly plants that attract wildlife native to coastal areas in southwest Florida. The native plant display, rainwater harvesting systems, and burrowing owl artificial burrow demonstrate Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ practices that conserve water while preserving the natural history of Cape Coral.

Figure 25. Demonstration Garden at Cape Coral Historical Museum

Demonstration Landscape
Rotary Park Recreation Center
5505 Rose Garden Rd.
Cape Coral, FL 33914
(239) 549-4606
http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu

Nine environmental learning stations highlight each of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles in an attractive, handicapped accessible, and wildlife-friendly way. UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners lead regularly scheduled on-site tours. Contact FYN@leegov.com for information and to schedule a tour. The demonstration landscape is co-sponsored by the City of Cape Coral and UF/IFAS Extension Lee County.

The Fragrance Garden
Lakes Regional Park
7330 Gladiolus Dr.
Ft. Myers, FL 33908
(239) 533-7504
http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu

Figure 24. Palms in a UF/IFAS Extension Lee County Garden
Created and maintained by UF/IFAS Extension Lee County Master Gardeners, the fragrance garden has been expanded to include a rose garden and a cactus garden.

**Manatee Regional Park**
10901 State Rd. 80
Fort Myers, FL 33916
(239) 461-7526
http://leeparks.org

Located near the intersection of Interstate 75 and State Road 80, Manatee Regional Park is a favorite spot for winter viewing of Florida manatees. The 17-acre, wheelchair-accessible, environmental park has a treasure trove of water-saving and environmental landscaping ideas. Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ practices (Figure 26) are shown in the context of four native plant communities. In addition, visitors will see a butterfly border, a constructed storm-water retention area, a riverine wetland, a rosemary-oak scrub, and a pine flatwood habitat attracting wildlife indigenous to southwest Florida.

**Leon County**
**Demonstration Gardens**
UF/IFAS Extension Leon County
615 Paul Russell Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 487-3004
http://leon.ifas.ufl.edu/

Located on the grounds of the UF/IFAS Extension Leon County office in Tallahassee, this garden (Figures 27 and 28) emphasizes Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles and features a range of native and Florida-Friendly plants, wildflowers, perennials, and vines. UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners maintain seven demonstration beds that focus on varied plant environments, such as full sun, shade, and drought-resistant landscaping. Also included is an organic vegetable garden with a bat house (for pollination) and a new orchard focusing on fruit-bearing trees. Visitors are always welcome and tours are held during the annual spring and fall open houses.

**Levy County**
**The Nature Coast Discovery Garden**
UF/IFAS Extension Levy County
625 North Hathaway Ave.
Bronson, Florida 32621
(352) 486-5132
http://levy.ifas.ufl.edu

Figure 26. Manatee Regional Park
Figure 27. Demonstration Garden at UF/IFAS Extension Leon County
Figure 28. Demonstration Garden at UF/IFAS Extension Leon County
The Nature Coast Discovery Garden (Figure 29) introduces visitors to the principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ with turf plot areas (Figure 30) and native plants. Signage throughout the garden features QR codes linking visitors to horticulture information from the University of Florida. Visitors can learn about best management practices for pests, weeds, and diseases, pruning techniques, and drought-tolerant or underutilized trees and shrubs of north Florida. Staff and UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardener volunteers are on hand to maintain the garden, discuss homeowner horticulture related issues, and elaborate on the principles demonstrated throughout the garden.

The Manatee County Educational Gardens, which first began in 2000, demonstrate butterfly gardening, vegetable and herb gardening, backyard fruit harvesting, a children’s fun zone, and Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (Figures 31 and 32). One-quarter of the garden is devoted to a children’s sensory garden, which includes a maze constructed with recycled wooden fencing material, a fragrance garden, an alphabet garden, a rainbow garden, a pond illustrating the life cycles of several aquatic animals, mini-vegetable-salad tables, and many plants children can touch. The garden also features a functioning wetland that illustrates the importance of wetlands and provides ideas for residents to deal with low-lying wet areas in their home landscape. The garden, which is planted and maintained by UF/IFAS Extension Manatee County Master Gardeners, is open during special events on the weekends and during the work week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., excluding Wednesday.

**Manatee County**

**Manatee County Educational Garden**  
UF/IFAS Extension Manatee County  
1303 17th St. W.  
Palmetto, FL 34221  
(941) 722-4524  
http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden/FFL/demonstration-garden.shtml
Marion County
UF/IFAS Extension Marion County Demonstration Gardens
UF/IFAS Extension Marion County
2232 NE Jacksonville Rd.
Ocala, FL 34470
(352) 671-8400
http://www.marioncountyfl.org/CountyExtension/Extension_default.aspx

UF/IFAS Extension Marion County’s on-site demonstration gardens include a butterfly garden (Figure 33), a shade garden (Figure 34), an herb garden, a tropical garden, and a handicapped-accessible vegetable garden. A community teaching program trains local residents in all aspects of growing their own produce while promoting the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles observed throughout our facility.

Martin County
UF/IFAS Extension Demonstration Garden
UF/IFAS Extension Martin County
2614 SE Dixie Highway
Stuart, FL 34996
(772) 288-5654
http://martin.ifas.ufl.edu/

UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardener volunteers design, plant, and maintain ornamental plants at the UF/IFAS Extension Demonstration Garden (Figure 35), which features a wide variety of plants, including a native area. A wildflower planting, funded by a grant from the Florida Wildflower Federation, was established in December 2013. Plants are individually labelled with information pertaining to their cultivation.

Vegetable Demonstration Garden
UF/IFAS Extension Martin County
2614 SE Dixie Highway
Stuart, FL 34996
(772) 288-5654
http://martin.ifas.ufl.edu/Demonstration_garden.shtml

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ faculty and staff, assisted by UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardener volunteers, develop, plant, and maintain this vegetable demonstration garden (Figure 36). The vegetable garden features a selection of hydroponic technologies, including floating hydroponics, aeroponics, and self-watering containers.
**Monroe County**

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Demonstration Garden
UF/IFAS Extension Monroe County
1100 Simonton St.
Key West, FL 33040
(305) 292-4501
http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu

This FFL demonstration garden at UF/IFAS Extension Monroe County includes areas highlighting coastal and upland plants, butterfly plants, turfgrasses and groundcovers, and mulch types. The garden is used to educate homeowners about landscape plants, proper watering methods, integrated pest management, proper planting techniques, and appropriate fertilization practices.

**Nassau County**

Demonstration Garden
James S. Page Governmental Complex
96135 Nassau Place
Yulee, FL 32097
(904) 491-7340
http://nassau.ifas.ufl.edu/horticulture/demogarden/demogarden.html

Established in 2005 by UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners, the demonstration garden (Figure 38) provides visitors with Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ information on best management practices (BMPs) for northeast Florida landscapes. The garden also includes a butterfly area that showcases nectar and host plants for butterflies. Master Gardeners offer a Butterfly Experience program for school children. The property is completely maintained by the Horticulture Agent and Master Gardener volunteers.

**Miami-Dade County**

FFL Landscape Demonstration Garden
UF/IFAS Extension Miami-Dade County
18710 SW 288th St.
Homestead, FL 33030
(305) 248-3311
http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/

The two-acre grounds of UF/IFAS Extension Miami-Dade County are landscaped using Florida-friendly plants that are well adapted to southeast Florida (Figure 37). Included in the garden is a one-acre orchard featuring both common and unusual tropical fruits that grow in USDA hardiness zone 10. The small arboretum demonstrates the effects of improper planting on tree growth. Starting in the fall and continuing through the spring growing season, visitors can explore a modest size edible garden located on the grounds.

**Figure 36. Demonstration Garden at UF/IFAS Extension Martin County**

UF/IFAS Mid-Florida Research and Education Center
See Orange County.

**Figure 37. UF/IFAS Extension Miami-Dade County**

**Figure 38. Nassau County Demonstration Garden**
The Fruit Garden
UF/IFAS Extension Nassau County (satellite office)
86026 Pages Dairy Rd.
Yulee, FL 32097
(904) 491-7340
http://nassau.ifas.ufl.edu/horticulture/fruit/fruitlist.html

The Fruit Garden at UF/IFAS Extension Nassau County’s satellite office features several raised beds with citrus trees including Meyer lemon, satsuma, naval orange, ‘Meiwa’ kumquat, and ruby red grapefruit. The back of the office features additional fruit trees such as pear cultivars (‘Hood’, ‘Pineapple’, and ‘Baldwin’), apple cultivars (‘Anna’ and ‘Golden Dorsett’), plum, nectarine, pomegranate, guava, and several varieties of rabbiteye blueberries. Two varieties of muscadine grapevines and one thornless blackberry are also planted. The front flower bed contains one mayhaw tree and an olive tree. The raised beds are surrounded by ornamental grasses and shrubs. The garden attracts butterflies from spring through fall, and the fruit trees provide plenty of food for the numerous families of bluebirds nesting in our on-site bluebird house. The property is completely maintained by the Horticulture Agent and UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardener volunteers.

Figure 39. Nassau County Fruit Garden

Historic Courthouse Garden
Historic Courthouse
416 Centre Street
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
(904) 491-7340
http://nassau.ifas.ufl.edu/horticulture/courthouse.html

The Historic Courthouse features a garden typical of a commercial site. This garden was the first county property to use micro- or drip irrigation. The garden features crape myrtle trees, bottlebrush, Indian hawthorn, junipers, African iris, Asiatic jasmine, and African bush daisy. The area is appropriately mulched and the trees are pruned according to International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) standards—maintenance practices consistent with Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ techniques. The property is completely maintained by the Horticulture Agent and UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardener volunteers.

Figure 40. Nassau County Courthouse Garden

UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center
See Gadsden County.

Okaloosa County
Native Plant Trail
UF/IFAS Extension Okaloosa County
3098 Airport Rd.
Crestview, FL 32359
(850) 689-5850
http://okaloosa.ifas.ufl.edu

UF/IFAS Extension Okaloosa County moved to a new property during the fall of 2012. The new office landscape is a work in progress with an emphasis on the development of a native plant trail. The trail currently involves a quarter-mile walk, which transitions through an upland forest and a bottomland site along a clear creek, and ends in a shady upland area. Visitors to the trail can see many native plant species including large mature trees, a number of Vaccinium species, and large open areas of deer moss covering portions of the trail (Figures 41 and 42). Color will be added to the trail by incorporating native plants such as native azalea, fringetree (Chionanthus virginicus), swamp hibiscus,
swamp cyrilla (*Cyrilla racemiflora*), and bigleaf magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*). The native plant trail will be used to increase awareness and encourage use of north Florida native plants.

![Figure 41. Area of the trail with deer moss](image1)

**Okeechobee County**

City of Okeechobee Color Garden
West Park Avenue at 6th Street (Flagler Park #6)
Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863) 763-6469

http://okeechobee.ifas.ufl.edu/Okeechobee.FYN.Butterfly-Garden.htm

Installed in downtown Okeechobee in 2009, this Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ demonstration site was designed as four color gardens within a downtown park (Figure 43). Utilizing drip irrigation to establish Florida-Friendly plants, the flowers have successfully attracted a limited number of butterflies to this park. Despite several freezes and extreme weed pressure, many of these colorful plants still survive with minimal maintenance.

![Figure 42. Wetland site along trail](image2)

**Orange County**

Demonstration Vegetable Garden
Central Florida Fairgrounds
4603 W. Colonial Dr.
Orlando, FL 32808
(407) 295-3247
http://orange.ifas.ufl.edu

This fenced-in garden is designed with eating in mind. The garden features a raised-bed vegetable garden, peach and apple trees, herbs, and roses. UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners maintain the garden and provide guided tours for elementary schools. The garden also features a play house.

**Exploration Gardens**

UF/IFAS Extension Orange County Education Center 6021 South Conway Road
Orlando, FL 32812
(407) 254-9200
http://orange.ifas.ufl.edu

The Exploration Gardens consists of seven themed gardens, an event garden (Figures 44 and 45), a butterfly garden, an eco garden, a home and small farm vegetable demonstration garden, a bog garden, a fruit tree demonstration garden, and a succulent garden. Each garden is designed to educate visitors about related topics; from Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles to home vegetable gardening to fruit trees for central Florida. The gardens are utilized by
UF/IFAS Extension faculty for classes on microirrigation, palm care, plant selection, and planting and maintenance techniques.

Figure 44. Event Garden

Teaching Garden
UF/IFAS Mid-Florida Research and Education Center (MREC)
2725 S. Binion Rd.
Apopka, FL 32703
(407) 884-2034
http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu

Approximately one acre in size, the UF/IFAS Mid-Florida Research and Education Center Teaching Garden (Figure 46) opened in November 2003 to provide an area where students can participate in the design, installation, and maintenance of a landscape. Designed by an MREC student, the garden includes hardscaping, water features, a pergola, picnic tables, and other functional structures. Plant materials include roses, woody ornamentals, turfgrasses, annuals, and perennials.

Figure 45. Vegetable Garden

Figure 46. UF/IFAS Mid-Florida Research and Education Center Teaching Garden

Osceola County
Demonstration Landscape and Edibles Garden
UF/IFAS Extension Osceola County
Osceola Heritage Park
1921 Kissimmee Valley Ln.
Kissimmee, FL 34772
(321) 697-3000
http://osceola.ifas.ufl.edu

Maintained by UF/IFAS Extension Osceola County Master Gardener volunteers, this demonstration garden was designed to show visitors how easy it is to have a beautiful garden in Florida. The garden features native plants (Figure 47), a butterfly garden, old garden (heritage) roses, vegetable gardening techniques (Figure 48), and tropical plants.
Director in the 1950s, the garden was opened to the public in the 1970s. With several horticultural societies, a talented UF/IFAS Extension faculty, and assistance from a dedicated team of UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners, The Mounts Botanical Garden of Palm Beach County features numerous types of gardens with plants suitable for south Florida. Each garden is displayed to educate and inspire homeowners, commercial growers, and visitors alike to learn what they can grow themselves. Mounts includes various theme gardens including fragrance (Figure 49), light tropical shade, butterflies, tropical fruits, herbs, native plants, vegetables (Figure 50) and potted plants, a rain garden, and more. A tropical wetland garden is the next project underway.

Situated on 14 acres, this garden is the oldest and largest of the UF/IFAS Extension gardens in Florida. Founded by Marvin “Red” Mounts, an agriculture agent and Extension Director in the 1950s, the garden was opened to the public in the 1970s. With several horticultural societies, a talented UF/IFAS Extension faculty, and assistance from a dedicated team of UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners, The Mounts Botanical Garden of Palm Beach County features numerous types of gardens with plants suitable for south Florida. Each garden is displayed to educate and inspire homeowners, commercial growers, and visitors alike to learn what they can grow themselves. Mounts includes various theme gardens including fragrance (Figure 49), light tropical shade, butterflies, tropical fruits, herbs, native plants, vegetables (Figure 50) and potted plants, a rain garden, and more. A tropical wetland garden is the next project underway.

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Figure 48. Raised Beds in UF/IFAS Extension Osceola County’s Demonstration Garden

Figure 47. Purple Coneflower in UF/IFAS Extension Osceola County’s Educational Landscape

Figure 49. Rose and Fragrance Garden

Figure 50. Vegetable & Dooryard Fruit Garden

Palm Beach County
Mounts Botanical Garden
UF/IFAS Extension Palm Beach County
559 Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33415
(561) 233-1751
http://mounts.org
Pasco County
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Demonstration Garden
UF/IFAS Extension Pasco County
36702 State Road 52
Dade City, FL 33525
(352) 518-0231
http://pasco.ifas.ufl.edu/gardening/Plants_Demo_Garden.shtml

This FFL demonstration garden (Figures 51 and 52), tended by UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners, showcases a stormwater management system, rain barrels, microirrigation, and different mulches. Butterfly- and bird-attracting plants flourish in the garden complemented by structures designed to attract wildlife, such as ponds, an artificial bog, an old tree trunk, and a large arbor with vines. Visitors can see many native plants and monitor their progress through the seasons. The site also includes a daffodil trial garden.

Figure 51. UF/IFAS Extension Pasco County Garden

Figure 52. UF/IFAS Extension Pasco County Garden

Hudson Public Library
Hudson Public Library
8012 Library Rd.
Hudson, FL 34667
(352) 5518-0231
http://pasco.ifas.ufl.edu/

Designed and created by UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners in 2006, the Hudson Public Library garden features a mulched path and a garden bench for reflection. Plants incorporated into the garden have been selected to attract, feed, and provide shelter for the five most common butterflies in west central Florida. This project was a joint effort between UF/IFAS Extension Pasco County, Pasco Libraries, and the Pasco Friends of the Library, who helped purchase garden materials.

Pioneer Florida Museum and Village
15602 Pioneer Museum Rd.
Dade City, FL 33523
(352) 518-0231
http://pasco.ifas.ufl.edu/

Located next to the museum’s main building, this small butterfly garden was created using mostly plants that would have been used by early 1900s Floridians. UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardener volunteers use natural materials and integrated pest management in the garden, which provides visitors with an opportunity to see multiple butterfly and skipper species from spring through fall.

Pinellas County
The Florida Botanical Gardens
UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County
12520 Ulmerton Rd.
Largo, FL 33774
(727) 582-2100
http://www.flbg.org/

Situated on 182 acres that house Heritage Village and UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County, this garden serves more than 50,000 visitors a year. The Florida Botanical Gardens (Figure 53) house a collection of diverse plant environments that highlight Florida’s natural beauty. UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners play a significant role in the maintenance of the gardens. Specialty gardens feature palms, tropical fruits, bromeliads, topiaries, herbs and vegetables, and tropical plants. Also included is a wedding garden, a cottage garden, a jazz garden (Figure 54), and the Dr. Judy Yates rose garden.
Polk County
UF/IFAS Extension Polk County Demonstration Gardens
UF/IFAS Extension Polk County
1702 Highway 17
South Bartow, FL 33831
(863) 519-8677
http://polkfyn.com

This garden features a bog garden incorporating native plants (Figure 55), an edible garden, cold-hardy palms, a butterfly garden, a compost bin display, and much more (Figure 56). Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) principles can be observed throughout the garden and include a variety of mulches, microirrigation, and rain barrels. Signage and plant identification are provided.

Polk Training Center for Handicapped Citizens
111 Creek Road
Lake Alfred, FL 33850
(off County Road 557)
(863) 519-8677
http://polkfyn.com

This garden is located at the nursery of the Polk Training Center for Handicapped Citizens. It is open to visitors during the facility's hours of operation. The garden features wildflower plantings; microirrigation; low-maintenance plants for sunny, dry, sandy landscapes; and a variety of butterfly plants. Signage and plant identification are provided.

Mackay Gardens & Lakeside Preserve
900 Mackay Boulevard
Lake Alfred, FL 33850
Demonstration Gardens in the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service

This small, historic garden (figure 57) features a variety of plants well-suited to central Florida gardens. Signage and plant identification are provided.

SPCA of Polk County
5850 Brannen Road
Lakeland, FL 33813
(863) 519-8677
http://polkfyn.com

This demonstration garden, encompassing the grounds of the SPCA of Polk County, features trees, groundcovers, shrubs, and perennials that are pet-friendly and low-maintenance. This garden is traditionally landscaped and follows the principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™. Signage and plant identification are provided.

St. Johns County
Demonstration Arboretum
UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County
3125 Agricultural Center Dr.
St. Augustine, FL 32092
(904) 209-0430
http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/

This 48-acre property includes demonstration gardens, an arboretum, native gardens, a community garden consisting of sixty-four rentable plots, a memorial garden, a wind mitigation building with a Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) demonstration garden, a rose garden, a butterfly garden, an herb garden, beehives, a sustainable pine forest, a UF/IFAS Extension 4-H archery range, a fishing pond and dock, a landscaped jogging path, and a greenhouse. All of these gardens are maintained by county employees and over 200 UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardener volunteers. The property serves as a living teaching tool demonstrating the nine FFL principals to the public. These gardens and grounds are free for visitors to tour and community garden plot holders are free to garden at any time.

Hastings Garden
595 St. Johns Avenue
Hastings, FL 32145-0728
(904) 692-4944

The Florida Partnership for Water, Agriculture, & Community Sustainability (FPWACS) at Hastings offers demonstrations of Low Impact Development (LID) and Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ with a low maintenance design (Figures 59 and 60). UF/IFAS Extension Putnam County Master Gardeners maintain two edible gardens that...
Demonstration Gardens in the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service

include examples of square-foot gardening, hydroponic systems, and container gardening.

St. Lucie County

Demonstration Garden
UF/IAS Extension St. Lucie County
8400 Picos Rd., Suite 101
Fort Pierce, FL 34945
(561) 462-1660
http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu/

The grounds at UF/IAS Extension St. Lucie County feature a number of distinct garden areas including a nature walk, a salt-tolerant garden, a fern garden, a full-sun garden, a courtyard garden, a discovery garden (Figure 61), and a butterfly garden.

Teaching Garden
UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center (IRREC)
2199 South Rock Rd.
Fort Pierce, FL 34945
(772) 468-3922
http://irrecenvhort.ifas.ufl.edu/virtualgarden/index.htm

The Teaching Garden at UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center (IRREC) (Figure 62) was developed as an outdoor teaching laboratory to provide on-site plant collections for hands-on learning activities in support of classes taught at the center. The garden provides a source for plant identification and contains more than 277 plant species, of which approximately 43 percent are non-native and 57 percent are native to Florida.

The Linear Garden
UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center
2199 South Rock Rd.
Fort Pierce, FL 34945
(772) 468-3922 ext. 132
http://irrecenvhort.ifas.ufl.edu/LinearGarden/index.htm

The Linear Garden (Figure 63) is 2,426 feet long (nearly half a mile), and is therefore affectionately called the Linear Garden. It is located on the east side of South Rock Road across from the institutions.

Figure 60. Hastings Garden.

Figure 61. Discovery Garden in UF/IAS Extension St. Lucie County’s Garden

Figure 62. UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center Teaching Garden

Figure 63. UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center The Linear Garden
how gardens can provide year-round interest regardless of the season.

**Santa Rosa County**

**Milton Gardens**

UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center (WFREC) 5988 Highway 90, Bldg. 4900
Milton, FL 32583
(850) 983-5216
http://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/Subsites/MiltonGardens/FOMG-about.htm

The Milton Gardens (Figure 64) are a combination of teaching, research, and display gardens and are a joint effort between UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center, Pensacola State College (PSC), and UF/IFAS Extension Santa Rosa County Master Gardeners. The Garden was started in support of the UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture program located on the Milton Campus of PSC. Visitors can immerse themselves in a living classroom where they can identify flowers and shrubs and trees that make up the landscape. The garden includes mixed shrubs, perennials and tropical bulbs; a formal perennial garden with ornamental grasses, ginger, and iris collections; and a formal garden with collections of daylily, antique roses, and amaryllis. The shade garden includes collections of camellia, hydrangea, and hardy begonia all supported by a container production area with greenhouses and shade houses.

**Panhandle Butterfly House**

Highway 98 at the foot of the Navarre Bridge
Navarre, FL 32566
(850) 623-6321
http://www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org

UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners from three counties created this unique butterfly garden (Figure 65) devoted to Florida native butterflies. Open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, the Panhandle Butterfly House shares environmentally friendly gardening techniques with more than 12,000 visitors per year.

**Teaching and Demonstration Garden**

UF/IFAS Extension Santa Rosa County
6263 Dogwood Dr.
Milton, FL 32570
(850) 623-3868
http://santarosa.ifas.ufl.edu

The teaching and demonstration garden at UF/IFAS Extension Santa Rosa County (Figure 66) features several themed gardens and displays including a native garden, a tropical garden, a butterfly garden, an ornamental grass display, an edible landscape display, a vine display, and a
Seminole County Demonstration Gardens
UCF Public History Center
301 W. Seventh St.
Sanford, FL 32771
(407) 665-5558

A joint venture by UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County, the University of Central Florida (UCF), and the Seminole County Public Schools, this garden is located on the grounds of the public history museum. Different theme gardens are on display featuring herbs, pioneer vegetables, pioneer field crops, historic roses, and Florida and south-east native plants. Additionally, the demonstration area features shade, tropical, and butterfly gardens (Figure 67), as well as muscadine grapes, perennial and annual flower meadows, ornamental grasses, citrus groves, and a raised bed. Maintained by a project team, Master Gardeners, and middle school students involved in a pre-baccalaureate program, this garden annually services approximately 6,000 student visitors who receive instruction from the museum staff.

Demonstration Gardens
UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County
250 West County Home Rd.
Sanford, FL 32779
(407) 665-5558

Two demonstration gardens can be visited at UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County. A vegetable garden (Figure 68), maintained by UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners who teach vegetable gardening classes to the public, features four raised beds created from different materials, a microirrigation system, mulching, rain barrel use, and seasonal vegetable production.

Also on the property is the small Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Demonstration Garden (Figure 69), which highlights how homeowners can integrate the nine FFL principles into their yards. A variety of plants were selected...
to show how diverse and functional a Florida-Friendly yard may be. Plants include natives and non-natives, groundcovers, drought-tolerant plants, and those with wildlife value. This demonstration garden also displays pervious pavers, which reduce stormwater runoff, and microirrigation for efficient watering. The FFL demonstration garden is meant to serve as an attractive and tranquil space with an environmentally conscious design.

**Sumter County**

**Florida-Friendly Garden**  
UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County  
7620 SR 471  
Bushnell, FL 33513  
http://sumter.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort-MG/horticulture.shtml

Located on the grounds of UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County, this garden demonstrates Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ practices and features a pollinator garden (Figure 70), native plant garden (Figure 71), rain garden, fruit and vegetable garden, and two 3,000-gallon cisterns. The demonstration garden is maintained by UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County Master Gardeners and is used for educational presentations as well as our annual “Bug Camp.”

**Suwannee County**

**Vegetable Demonstration Garden**  
1302 11th St. SW  
Live Oak, FL 32064

At the vegetable demonstration garden, UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardener volunteers demonstrate a variety of techniques including how to make a vegetable garden labor efficient and how to reduce water use in the garden.

**Wildlife Garden**  
Heritage Park and Gardens  
1004 Helvenston St.  
Live Oak, FL 32064

UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardener volunteers designed and developed this garden (Figure 72) in order to provide habitat areas for wildlife. The mix of native and ornamental plants attracts a variety of insects, birds, and butterflies. The garden is nestled on the grounds of a donated estate with mature gardens designed in the early 1950s. Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ practices are now incorporated throughout the 77 acres of Heritage Park and Gardens.
**Volusia County**

**Demonstration Garden**

UF/IFAS Extension Volusia County  
Volusia County Agricultural Center  
3100 E. New York Ave.  
DeLand, FL 32724  
(386) 822-5778  
http://volusia.org/extension/

Primarily a wildlife-attracting garden, this garden is a collaboration between the Solid Waste Department and the UF/IFAS Extension Volusia County. It includes numerous native plants, a butterfly garden (Figure 73), a birdhouse area, a compost alley, a wheelchair-accessible vegetable garden, and a deck made from recycled plastic lumber. The garden is maintained by UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners (Figure 74) and is used for educational programs with school children.

**Wakulla County**

**The Master Garden**

UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County  
84 Cedar Ave.  
Crawfordville, FL 32327  
(850) 926-3931  
http://wakulla.ifas.ufl.edu

The Master Garden (Figure 75) is composed of a series of plots surrounding the UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County facility. The garden was developed by and is maintained by UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardener volunteers. A self-guided tour includes information about a variety of plants and trees. Additional signs throughout the garden highlight how the nine principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) are reflected in the garden. The Master Garden is used for “hands-on” programs with adults and youths, and is the basis for the monthly “In the Garden Now” news column. Demonstrations on food preservation with our UF/IFAS Extension Agent for Family, Youth, and Community Sciences also take place at the garden. These demonstrations teach sustainability through the production and preservation of various vegetable crops.
Walton County

Demonstration Native Plant Garden & Trail
109 Greenway Trail
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459
http://www.basinalliance.org/page.cfm?articleID=46

In 2011, UF/IFAS Extension Walton County Master Gardeners partnered with the Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC) and their affiliate Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA) to develop a native plant demonstration garden on NWFSC’s new campus. The garden includes a native plant self-guided trail, a wildflower meadow, and a native plant demonstration garden. The demonstration garden is a 150- by 100-foot area on a sunny, windy slope known to have basic soil (pH 8.4). Nearly 100 species of Florida native trees, shrubs, and flowers, planted without soil amendments or fertilizers, currently thrive here despite the inhospitable growing conditions. This garden is meant to demonstrate the adaptability and high survival rate of native plants. Educational components in the garden include plant identification and signage, drip irrigation, rain barrels, a recycling demonstration, and mulching with cardboard and wood chips. Trellises, benches, and art renderings by Master Gardeners, as well as a dramatic sculpture, were included to enhance the aesthetic experience.

UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center
See Santa Rosa County.