

What is Urban Agriculture?

Sustainable Living
www.pinellascountyextension.org

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Urban agriculture within and around our cities can provide healthy, local food that contributes to food security and helps to maintain additional green space.

Agriculture was typically considered a rural activity. Today, up to 15% of our food originates from within metropolitan areas. The contribution of urban agriculture to food security and healthy nutrition is important as more people live in cities than ever before. Urban Agriculture is growing across the nation and is important for sustainable local economies.

Examples of Urban Agriculture

- Community Gardens
- Small Urban Farms
- Farmer's Markets
- Home Vegetable Gardens
- Hydroponic Gardening
- School Gardens
- Roof Top Vegetable Gardening
- Backyard Poultry
- Beekeeping
- Community Supported Agriculture
- Fish Farming
- Farm to School



Food production can be an effective tool in developing small businesses. Large amounts of food can be produced on small plots in cities. These intensive methods of production can maximize the efficiency of small-scale operations. According to the USDA Economic Research Service, urban commercial gardens utilize raised beds, soil amendments, and season extenders such as hoop houses, to produce yields that can be 13 times more per acre than rural farms. The fact that there is a great demand for locally grown products provides a market for those who wish to sell their produce directly to consumers.



Visit Our Vegetable Garden Demonstration

Resources

UF/IFAS Agriculture:

www.solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/agriculture

UF/IFAS Extension Local Foods:

www.solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/sustainable_living/local_food.html

UF/IFAS Extension Community Supported Agriculture:

www.solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/agriculture/csa.html

Edible Landscaping:

www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep146



Urban Agriculture Resources



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UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension Resources to Support Urban Agriculture:

Family and Consumer Science (Nan Jensen)

- Nutrition education in schools and communities
- Family Nutrition Program
SNAP-Education program in Florida
- Food safety
- Cottage Industry
- Farmer's Markets SNAP EBT

Urban Horticulture (Theresa Badurek)

- Master Gardener volunteer coordinator
- Education on vegetable gardens, community gardens, composting
- School Garden coordinator (Bob Albanese)
- Community Gardens forum
- Lawn and garden help desk

Commercial Horticulture (Jane Morse)

- Integrated Pest management
- Hydroponics and protected Agriculture
- Urban Farming workshops
- Pesticide testing and information

Urban Sustainability (Ramona Madhosingh-Hector)

- Land use/planning information
- Local food systems
- Community engagement
- Sustainable Floridians coordinator
- Aquaculture (Libby Carnahan)

4-H Youth Development (Jean Rogalsky)

- Youth (5-18) development programs with Ag curriculum
- 4-H Ochs vegetable gardens
- School gardens curriculum
- State Fair



UF Resources

UF/IFAS EDIS – Electronic Data Information Source
www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu

UF/IFAS Hydroponics:
http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/crops/hydroponics/hydroponic_production.html

UF/IFAS Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises
<http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu>

UF/IFAS Food and Resource Economics Department
www.fred.ifas.ufl.edu/directory/hodges-alan.shtml



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