



IFAS EXTENSION LEE COUNTY



Horticulture

*Extend Your Knowledge with
Lee County Extension*

*For more
information about
the Horticulture
Program:*

Lee County Extension

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What Is Horticulture Extension?

Helping home gardeners and commercial growers make the most of our beautiful Southwest Florida flora is the job of the Horticulture Agent at Lee County Extension. Whether you're a newcomer, a long-time resident, or a nursery or landscape professional, the experienced agent of Lee County Extension has the answers to your plant and landscape questions.

Behind Lee County Extension stand specialists and researchers from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Together they assure you the most current horticulture information possible. University of Florida's research stations at Immokalee, Fort Lauderdale and Bradenton are among 20 sites dedicated to cutting edge horticulture technology.

The Horticulture Agent of Lee County Extension also works with the Florida Nursery Growers Association, the Landscape Maintenance Association and other professional organizations. Telephone consultations, office visits, on-site demonstrations and classes are available throughout the year.

Read *The News-Press* each Saturday for the regular column on Southwest Florida gardening produced by Lee County Extension and listen to WINK/WNOG Radio (AM 1240 / AM 1270) each Sunday at 8 a.m. for "*The Garden Show.*"



Your Lee County Extension offers seminars and classes on selected topics for free or at modest cost.

Extend Your Knowledge With Lee County Extension



Horticulture

Here is a sampling of how you can extend your knowledge of horticulture with Lee County Extension:

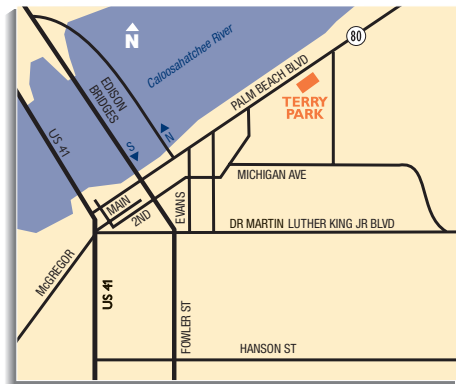
Especially for Homeowners

The Horticulture Desk answers more than 10,000 questions each year. Also offered are:

- ▶ Classes on plant culture, insects and disease management and much more
- ▶ Hands on pruning and grafting workshops
- ▶ Landscape design
- ▶ Diagnosing disease and pest problems
- ▶ Demonstrator gardens

Especially for Nurseries and the Landscape Maintenance Industry

- ▶ Plant production advice
- ▶ Certification programs for professionals
- ▶ Diagnosing disease and pest problems
- ▶ Efficient use of water to maximize growth
- ▶ On-site demonstrations of horticultural technology
- ▶ Classes and workshops on plant culture and pest and disease management



Training and Certification of Pesticide Applicators

Lee County Extension regularly conducts classes for pesticide licensing and recertification for the commercial horticulture industry. The Horticulture Agent helps nurseries and landscapers stay abreast of rapidly changing state and federal pesticide laws and provides special training to ensure worker safety.

Master Gardener Program

Lee County Extension has more than 70 Master Gardeners to assist the Horticulture Agent in addressing your needs on a timely basis. Volunteer Master Gardeners staff the Horticulture Desk each weekday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Among their duties are:

- ▶ Answering questions by phone, computer, or in person regarding plant health, maintenance and judicious use of agrochemicals (ideal placement, watering schedules, proper fertilization and other topics of interest to the home gardener)
- ▶ Conducting plant clinics for the public
- ▶ Soil PH test
- ▶ Maintaining demonstration plots at Lee County Extension
- ▶ Conducting classes on landscaping
- ▶ Serving as guest speakers for clubs and organizations

About

Lee County Extension

Lee County Extension is part of a publicly funded statewide educational network that links the expertise and resources of federal, state and local partners.

Its mission is to help people, businesses and government leaders improve their lives through education and scientific knowledge focused on issues and needs.

Founded in 1922, Lee County Extension enjoys partnerships with the University of Florida and its Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). Both are nationally recognized for their research and education capabilities.

The Lee County Board of County Commissioners also plays a vital role in both funding and providing support with offices in both Fort Myers and Cape Coral.

Lee County Extension employs a dedicated staff to serve the educational and research needs of area residents. In addition, more than 200 volunteers annually devote more than 145,000 hours to Extension programs. The agency is assisted by an Advisory Committee which provides guidance in determining future program needs and develops long-range plans.

Through the combined efforts of the staff, volunteers, Advisory Committee, and the University of Florida, Lee County Extension strives to always remain responsive to the needs of area residents and to take a leadership role in disseminating the latest technological information.