

UCF Organic Community Garden

The garden's ground-breaking took place on February 21, 2009. The garden is a collaborative effort between the UCF Arboretum and the UCF student body. During its lifetime, the garden has had thousands of service hours contributed.

Portions of the produce currently go back to volunteers, are donated to the homeless and the Knights Pantry, and are sold to raise money.

The Garden's Journey

When this plot of land was granted for use as our garden, it was barren: a vast expanse of mulch and concrete debris. It was leveled. The addition of compost has amended the originally sandy soil. Over the course of time we have planted a variety of crops, including tomatoes, lettuce, melons and cucumbers, broccoli, onions, sunflowers and medicinal and culinary herbs. For the summer months the garden was planted with okra, eggplant, peanuts, black-eyed peas, and collards. Midway through summer 2009 began the construction of the sustainably harvested bamboo fence which surrounds the garden.



Community

This garden welcomes all of the UCF and Orlando community to come volunteer and learn about plants and food. The garden deepens the sense of community on campus, creating opportunities and connecting people with their food production. The garden is open to partnering with organizations. Email arboretum@ucf.edu for more information.

Education

The garden hosts educational and volunteer projects for groups and children, which has included the UCF Creative Preschool, Boys Town, and various summer camps. Student and community volunteers learn practical skills while engaging in garden activities. As stated in UCF's mission, "Education is more than classroom experience." Education encompasses the outside world. Please contact us at arboretum@ucf.edu if you are interested in any of these opportunities.



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities include a variety of outdoor activities, such as weeding, mulching, fertilizing plants with compost, and sowing and sprouting seeds. We also welcome service-learning students, aspiring interns, and work-study employees. To find out when you can volunteer, visit our website:

www.arboretum.ucf.edu



Why Organic & Locally Grown?

Organic agriculture and gardening use no chemical fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides. Organic farms allow fewer opportunities to contaminate drinking water supplies, deplete soils, or harm unintended species. Organic food has been shown to contain more vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants than conventionally grown food*. Since locally grown food doesn't have to be shipped long distances, it conserves petroleum resources. The community garden is organic in order to exemplify a more sustainable method of food production. Organic agriculture celebrates and encourages life - from health of the soil microbes and beneficial insects to health of the people eating produce.

*OrganicConsumers.org



Location

The garden is located near the UCF Arboretum office, Between the H.E.C. Engineering Center 3 & College of *Optics* and Photonics (CREOL) buildings and East Gemini Blvd.

The garden is open to everyone. Please welcome others and be respectful.



Contact Us:

Mon-Fri 7:00am-4:00pm

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arboretum@ucf.edu

www.arboretum.ucf.edu



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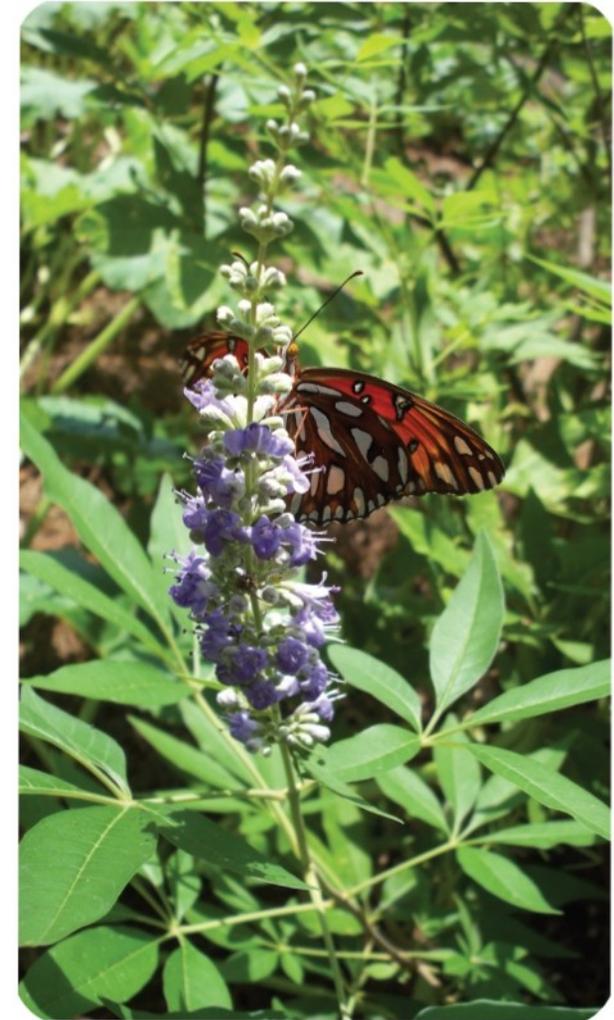


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UCF ARBORETUM Community Garden



Garden & Natural Land Hours:

Open 7 days a week from sunrise to sunset

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