



# Educating with Extension

## Master Gardener Training Program

The Florida Master Gardener program began in 1979 and has been growing stronger ever since. According to the most recent calculations, the program's volunteers have donated 5.4 million hours, worth some \$84 million to taxpayers.

In 1992, the Monroe County Master Gardener Program officially started and continues today. The number of Master Gardener volunteers has grown over the years with the initial class of 10, to 24 interns attending the 2010 Master Gardener training, and 71 active Master Gardeners in 2011.

Here's how it works: Selected Master Gardener interns go through a 60-hour training program conducted by Monroe County Extension Services, which is part of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS). Training will include topics such as basic plant science, entomology, plant pathology, soils and fertilizers, turf management, growing tropical fruit trees, woody ornamentals, integrated pest management, vegetable gardening, and diagnosing plant problems.

After the training, Master Gardener interns must serve a minimum of 75 volunteer hours within the first year of certification to become an active Master Gardener. To maintain an active Master Gardener status, one must complete a minimum of 35 hours and 10 educational hours each year.

Master Gardener duties include:

- ◆ Assisting the Horticulture Agent in the Extension Office by answering questions from callers or walk-in clients.
- ◆ Going on site visits.
- ◆ Helping out at regional plant clinics.
- ◆ Working on horticultural materials for the Internet.
- ◆ Educating clientele at horticulture education booths at various events.

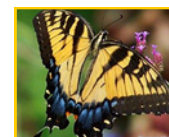


You don't need to have a green thumb to be a great Master Gardener. Much of the training focuses on teaching volunteers how to find the information they need through the UF/IFAS website and the National eXtension website. There is no prerequisite to being a plant expert; just the willingness to learn and to share what you learn with others.

So if you want to learn more about being a plant medic or are interested in growing tropical fruit trees, native plants, ornamentals, or lawns, and enjoy helping others, then your chance may be just around the bend.



The upcoming Monroe County Master Gardener Training Program is being offered to provide training for selected home gardeners in the Florida Keys. **In order to be selected for this crop of Master Gardener interns, one must attend a regional preview session.** At the preview session, you will learn more about the Monroe County Master Gardener Program, the application process, Master Gardener classroom training, and volunteer opportunities.



**The preview sessions will be held at the following locations:**

- ⇒ **Lower Keys** – Monday, November 28, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., Gato Building, 1100 Simonton Street, First Floor Conference Room, Key West
- ⇒ **Middle Keys** – Tuesday, November 29, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., Marathon Government Center, Second Floor EOC meeting room, 2798 Overseas Highway, MM 47.5, Gulfside, Marathon
- ⇒ **Upper Keys** – Wednesday, November 30, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., Murray E. Nelson Government & Cultural Center, 102050 Overseas Highway, MM 102, Bayside, Key Largo

Classes will be held for nine consecutive Fridays beginning January 27, 2012 and ending March 23, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., in Marathon. The fee, which includes training materials, will be confirmed at the preview sessions.

Check out our Master Gardener web page at [http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn/lawn\\_mg.shtml](http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn/lawn_mg.shtml).

For more information about the Master Gardener Training Program, contact Kim Gabel, Environmental Horticulture Agent, UF/IFAS/Monroe County Extension Services, 1100 Simonton Street, Suite 2-260, Key West, phone 292-4501, or by e-mail at [kgabel@ufl.edu](mailto:kgabel@ufl.edu).



## Regional Plant Clinics

It's the fall/winter season and Kim Gabel & the Master Gardeners are ready, willing, and able to help you with your plant and/or insect problems.

Just bring a sample to one of the [Regional Plant Clinics](#) listed below and they will dazzle you with their expertise.

**Key West:** 1 to 4 p.m., Gato Building, 1100 Simonton Street, Suite 2-260  
 November 7 & 21  
 December 5 & 19  
 January 23, 2012  
 February 6  
 March 5 & 19  
 April 2 & 16

**Big Pine Key:** 9 a.m. to noon, Big Pine Academy, 30220 Overseas Highway (Look for blue tent)  
 November 19  
 December 17  
 January 21, 2012  
 February 18  
 March 17  
 April 21

**Marathon:** 9 a.m. to noon, Marathon Garden Club, 5270 Overseas Hwy.  
 November 19  
 December 17  
 January 21, 2012  
 February 18  
 March 17  
 April 21

**Key Largo:** 9 a.m. to noon, Murray E. Nelson Government & Cultural Center, 102050 Overseas Highway, Suite 244, MM 102, Bayside  
 November 2 & 16  
 December 7 & 21  
 January 4 & 18, 2012  
 February 1 & 15  
 March 7 & 21  
 April 4 & 18



## November Events

**Florida Keys EcoWeek 2011**  
 November 2 - 5  
[www.FloridayKeysEcoWeek.com](http://www.FloridayKeysEcoWeek.com)

**Monthly Meeting**  
**Key West Garden Club**  
 Thursday, November 3  
[www.KeyWestGardenClub.com](http://www.KeyWestGardenClub.com)

**Lionfish Derby**  
 Saturday, November 5  
[www.reef.org/lionfish/derbies](http://www.reef.org/lionfish/derbies)

**Community Cleanups**  
 Saturday, November 5, [Marathon](#)  
 Saturday, November 12, [Big Coppitt](#)  
 Saturday, November 19, [Tavernier](#)

**Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting**  
 Monday, November 14  
[www.MonroeCounty-fl.gov](http://www.MonroeCounty-fl.gov)

**America Recycles Day**  
 Tuesday, November 15  
[www.AmericaRecyclesDay.org](http://www.AmericaRecyclesDay.org)

**Monthly Meeting**  
**Upper Keys Garden Club**  
 Tuesday, November 15  
[www.UpperKeysGardenClub.com](http://www.UpperKeysGardenClub.com)

**The SMART Ride**  
 November 18 - 19  
<http://TheSmartRide.org>

**Annual Plant Sale**  
**Key West Garden Club**  
 November 19 - 20  
[www.KeyWestGardenClub.com](http://www.KeyWestGardenClub.com)

**Annual Fall Festival**  
**Marathon Garden Club**  
 Saturday, November 26  
[www.MarathonGardenClub.org](http://www.MarathonGardenClub.org)

**Save the Dates:**  
 December 8 & 9  
[3rd Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit](#)

## Media Recap, etc.

**Doug Gregory** spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine," WGMX's "Morning Mix," and KONK AM about high tides and sea level rise. He also mentioned the upcoming 3rd Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit.

**Kim Gabel** spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" about Rugose Spiraling Whitefly Workshops and Regional Plant Clinics.

**Alicia Betancourt** spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" twice and WGMX's "Morning Mix" about holiday budgeting/spending and Halloween safety tips for kids and adults.

### Rugose Spiraling Whitefly Workshops

Kim Gabel will present three free workshops in November regarding the Rugose Spiraling Whitefly, a/k/a the Gumbo Limbo Spiraling Whitefly.

- [Islamorada workshop](#) on Wednesday, November 2, at the Islamorada Library, 81380 Overseas Highway, Gulfside, from 3 - 4 p.m.
- [Key West workshop](#) on Monday, November 14, at the Gato Building, 1100 Simonton St., from 3 - 4 p.m.
- [Marathon workshop](#) on Tuesday, November 29, at the Marathon Government Center, EOC meeting room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 2798 Overseas Highway, Marathon, from 5 - 6 p.m.

To see the schedule for the remainder of 2011, go online to our Lawn & Garden web page at <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn/lawn.shtml>, and for more information on whiteflies, go to the main page of our website at <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>.



**Spiral Egg Pattern**

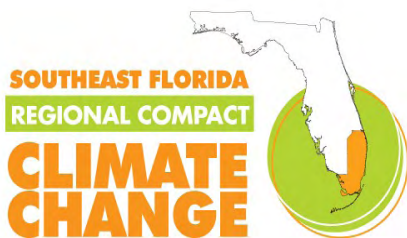


**Family, Youth,  
and Community  
Development**  
**Alicia Betancourt**

Alicia worked with contractor Cameron-Cole to finalize the EECBG grant-funded Draft Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy Report (EECS). She presented the document and solicited input to the Monroe County Division Directors and the Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee. She also compiled the input from stakeholders and presented it to Cameron-Cole.

Alicia developed and presented a draft project and resource plan for the development of an Energy Reduction Task Force in county operations. She obtained several staff appointments and is working on a final project plan including a timeline and deliverables.

Alicia collaborated with Rhonda Haag, Sustainability Coordinator, regarding food vendors, site planning, and staff coordination for the [3rd Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit](#) to be held December 8 - 9 at the Murray E. Nelson Government & Cultural Ctr.



Alicia was a staff liaison for the [Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee's](#) October workshop meeting, which focused on the EECS as well as ranking the goals and actions for further development.

She presented two lessons in the High School Financial Literacy Program to two different classes which focused on goal setting and budgeting.

Alicia worked with the University of Florida's Climate Variability Focus Team to plan a summit that will include professional development opportunities.



**Marine &  
Green News**  
**Doug Gregory**

Doug organized a workshop of the [Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee](#) and facilitated a presentation by Cameron-Cole of the Draft Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy Report as part of the EECBG grant.

He facilitated a presentation to the Monroe County Division Directors by Cameron-Cole of the Draft Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy Report as part of the EECBG grant. This has already resulted in the formation of an Energy Reduction Task Force as an internal county effort to save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through conservation and alternative energy efforts.

Doug presented an "Introduction to Population Assessments" to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Reef Fish Advisory Panel at the request of Council staff. The fishermen wanted to learn more about how the data they provide is used in population assessments, the challenges scientists face in conducting an assessment, and why results can change from one assessment to the next.

He attended the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association Board of Directors meeting to discuss ongoing fishery issues related to the lobster and king mackerel fisheries, preparation for the [2012 Florida Keys Seafood Festival](#), and enforcement activities with an FWC Enforcement Officer regarding the current increase in lobster trap thefts.

Doug participated in a 3-day Gulf of Mexico Fishery Council Scientific and Statistical Committee meeting in Tampa to review the recently completed population assessment for vermilion snapper, which is in a healthy state with no overfishing.



**Horticulture  
News**  
**Kim Gabel**

Kim held three regional Rugose Spiraling Whitefly (RSW) workshops for homeowners, and two workshops for pest control operators and landscapers. A total of 82 people were present.

She attended the South District Extension meeting at the Palm Beach County Extension office.

Kim was a guest speaker at the Miami-Dade County Master Gardener Training and talked about composting, vegetable gardening, and common vegetable gardening problems. Twenty-five Master Gardener trainees were in attendance.



She provided an educational opportunity for ten classes from kindergarten to 5th grade at the Stanley Switlik Elementary School Science Expo, with topics covering RSW and vermicomposting. Three Master Gardeners assisted and 200 students attended.

As a guest speaker for the Key West Attractions Association, she spoke about the RSW and its control. In attendance were 25 people.

Kim held two Master Gardener meetings; one in Key West and one in Marathon. Eighteen Master Gardeners participated. The Key Largo meeting was canceled due to inclement weather and was rescheduled for November 16, from 1 - 2 p.m.

She spoke at the Big Pine Key Botanical Society meeting about the recent finding of the RSW in Eden Pines Colony. Fifty people showed up to hear what she had to say.

Kim and five Master Gardeners held three regional plant clinics, assisting eight clientele with their plant and/or insect problems.

She made four site visits: two in Key West - Subterranean Termites and RSW; Big Pine Key - RSW; and Marathon - RSW.

## UF/IFAS/MONROE COUNTY EXTENSION

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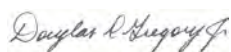
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This newsletter can be accessed online at the following link

<http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletter.shtml>



CED: Douglas R. Gregory, Jr.



We're on the Web at <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>

**SOLUTIONS**  
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Extension programs and activities are open to all persons and do not discriminate with regard to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations.

Monroe County will host the [3rd Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit](#) on December 8 & 9 at the Murray E. Nelson Government & Cultural Center, 102050 Overseas Highway, Key Largo.

The summit is an annual gathering of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, created in 2009 by Broward County officials and comprised of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. A [Resolution](#) was established and adopted by all four counties which commits them to give significant consideration to adaptation strategies designed to protect public infrastructure, property, water resources, natural areas and native species, and basic quality of life.

The annual summit is held so that updates can be shared, to find out what each county's contributions to climate change issues have been made, and which goals and objectives have been met. This year, a Regional Climate Action Plan will be released.

Attendees will include elected officials, businesses, local government, and individuals interested in climate change impacts, extreme weather and hazards, and economic sustainability in South Florida. Members of the public are welcome to attend.



### 2012 UF/IFAS Extension Calendars

are available for free upon request. Pick one up at the Key West or Key Largo Extension Office, or to receive one via snail mail, just send an e-mail to [monroe@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:monroe@ifas.ufl.edu) or call 292-4501.



## Publications

### Reclaimed Water Use for Edible Crop Production in Florida

Irrigating edible crops with reclaimed water is a promising, cost-effective solution to Florida's over-use of freshwater resources. Learn more in this 4-page fact sheet <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ss561>

### Energy Efficient Homes: Water Heaters

Water heaters are the third largest energy expense in your home. This 5-page fact sheet describes factors to consider when purchasing and lists the various choices available.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fy1025>

### Distillation of Essential Oils

Essential oils are volatile, aromatic oils obtained from plants and used for fragrance, flavoring, and health and beauty applications. Learn about the history of essential oils, plant anatomy, and basics of essential oil distillation in this 4-page fact sheet.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw355>



Lemongrass plants

## Want to be a Sponsor for the 7th Annual Florida Keys Seafood Festival?

To download an application, log onto [http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/environment/2012\\_Sponsor\\_Application.pdf](http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/environment/2012_Sponsor_Application.pdf)

or call Vicki at 305-872-9026

E-mail: [vickigale@bellsouth.net](mailto:vickigale@bellsouth.net)

### UF/IFAS/MCES QUARTERLY CONTACTS

	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total
Phone calls	431	471	506	1408
Office visitors	35	39	51	125
Visits to clients	18	15	12	45
Group teachings	13	17	25	55
Participants	199	286	547	1032
Media submissions	9	7	8	24
Publications distributed	507	483	479	1469
<b>TOTAL contacts</b>	<b>1212</b>	<b>1318</b>	<b>1628</b>	<b>4158</b>