

2025

Home Horticulture: Urban Green

Greener Living through Home Horticulture



Home horticulture and urban green programs can help improve physical and mental health. Lawn care and gardening, for example, allow individuals to exercise, enjoy the outdoors, and connect with other family members and people in the community. It can also reduce food insecurity and save on family food costs.

Alabama Extension's home horticulture programs enable people to learn eco-friendly practices to manage landscapes, urban gardens, and control harmful pests.

STEM in the Garden

This course trains teachers on basic gardening principles and ways to align the Alabama gardening calendar with a school year calendar. This program also helps to maximize a school's STEM teaching capability.

Urban Ag: Urban Food Production and Sustainable Communities

Urban Ag provides education and training concerning research-based agricultural methods and business process management strategies to support food production and city planning efforts. Learning components in commercial horticulture, food safety and quality, animal sciences and forages, economic and community development, and forestry, wildlife, and natural resources all work together to support those interested in urban agriculture opportunities.

Urban Green

Urban Green is an education program that provides urban residents with sustainable practices to manage landscaping, urban gardening, and home pests.



10,434
contacts



99%
of teachers will
implement practices



68%
increase in knowing four
ways to conserve water



90%
increase in pest control
knowledge using trap plants

The latest Alabama Extension at Alabama A&M University program impacts reported from 2024 program implementation.

2024 Program Impacts

- 10,434 direct contacts were made in urban ag programming efforts.

Home horticulture and urban green programs can help reduce food insecurity and increase knowledge and skills that are beneficial to the environment.

STEM in the Garden

Survey results revealed the following:

- 100% of participants learned something new.
- 99% of participants planned to implement a practice they learned.
- 99% of participants planned to share what they learned with family and friends.

Results further revealed that participants planned to adopt plant propagation, soil health monitoring, transplanting, insect control practices, composting, umbrella techniques for frost protection, mixed planting, and cover cropping. They also planned to install pollinator, small-scale, raised bed, and container gardens.

Urban Ag: Urban Food Production and Sustainable Communities

A program survey among 2,637 participants indicated the following:

- 84% increase in knowing the importance of water irrigation systems and 68% increase in learning at least four ways to conserve water in a garden.
- 92% increase in the importance of identifying beneficial insects.
- 90% importance in the use of trap plants and crops.
- 92% in the importance of pollinators and pollinator gardens.

Urban Green

- 957 participants increased knowledge of water conservation, sustainable landscapes, and the importance of integrated pest management practices.
- 71% average increase in knowledge of urban green practices.

