Tri-County Master Gardener Water School

2018 Urban Landscape Summit

Theresa Badurek, UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County
Lynn Barber, UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County
Whitney Elmore, UF/IFAS Extension Pasco County
Jim Moll, UF/IFAS Extension Pasco County
Nicole Pinson, UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County

Photo credit: Nicole Pinson
Why a Water School for MGs?

• Advanced training
  • CEUs

• Practical knowledge
  • Reclaimed
  • Irrigation

• Conserve water
  • Master Gardeners
  • Public

• Promotes FFL principles

Photo credit: UF/IFAS
Educational methods

• Extension Specialists
• Hands-on demonstrations
• Fertilizer knowledge quiz
• Pledge
• Hike in Preserve
• Post-workshop survey
Conservation strategies

• Identify water issues/solutions

• Communicate
  • Inground irrigation calibration
  • Inground vs. micro
  • Plant selection decisions
  • Potable vs. non
  • HOAs
  • Help desk, seminars, demo gardens, media
Learning opportunities

• Fertilizer use
  • Not during winter
  • Local ordinances
  • Near palms
  • Soil test for P
  • K is important nutrient

Photo credit: UF/IFAS
Results

- Knowledge increase: 21 MGs completed a post-test (57%)
  - 100% don’t fertilize new lawns & prior to rain events
  - 100% leave grass clippings
  - 95% use palm fertilizer on entire landscape
  - 43% water in fertilizer
Results

Pledge:

• **94%** increased confidence talking with the public
• **41%** will talk about water with clients
• **35%** will talk about water in their programs

Photo credit: UF/IFAS
Results

Top conservation strategy volunteers pledged to implement:

• 43% pledged to conserve water

See poster for more info!

Duplicate program in other counties- share to impact!