



Research and Extension Programming in Urban Agriculture in Virginia

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Sustainable and Urban Agriculture

Introduction

What is Urban Agriculture?

- It is the practice of growing fruits, herbs, and vegetables and raising animals in cities.



Introduction

□ It involves the practices such as:

-animal husbandry



Introduction

□ It involves the practices such as:

-bee keeping (apiculture)



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Introduction

□ It involves the practices such as:

-aquaculture



Introduction

□ It involves the practices such as:

-horticulture



Why Do We Teach Urban Agriculture?

□ Creating awareness

-In cities, people do not relate with farming.

-The younger generation living today in the cities do not know the source of their food.

Why Do We Teach Urban Agriculture?

□ Utilization of space

- In cities with tall buildings, even though land is scarce and expensive, the roof is often left bare and unused.**
- Urban agriculture on roofs can make use of these spaces.**
- Other spaces include the use of front yards, backyards, and patios.**

Why Do We Teach Urban Agriculture?

□ Food security

-Food Desert: a low-income area where a substantial number of residents have low access to a large grocery store.

-Low access to a healthy food retail outlet is defined as ≥ 1 mile from a large grocery store in urban areas.

Why Do We Teach Urban Agriculture?

□ Food safety

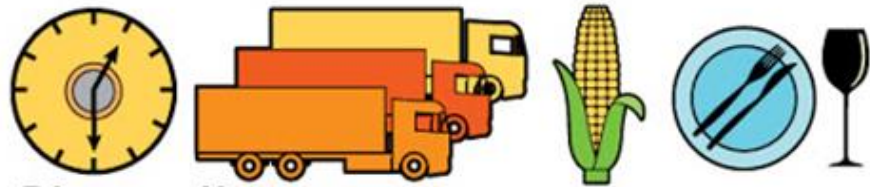
- You know where the food is grown.
- Also, it's often grown without pesticides and chemical fertilizers.



Why Do We Teach Urban Agriculture?

□ Reduce food transportation

-Food miles =



Time + distance FROM THE POINT & TIME
WHERE FOOD IS *grown* TO WHERE IT IS
consumed. THE SMALLER THE BETTER!

Why Do We Teach Urban Agriculture?

□ Economic base

-Urban agriculture provides:

- employment**
- income.**



Why Do We Teach Urban Agriculture?

□ Health benefits

-The more people grow their own food, the more they are likely to eat it.

-Urban farming involves urban dwellers in active work and recreation.



Why Do We Teach Urban Agriculture?

□ Social benefits

-In apartments, neighbors seldom communicate.

-Urban farming or gardening brings people together, creating “**agrihoods**”: where a working farm is the central feature.



Why Do We Teach Urban Agriculture?

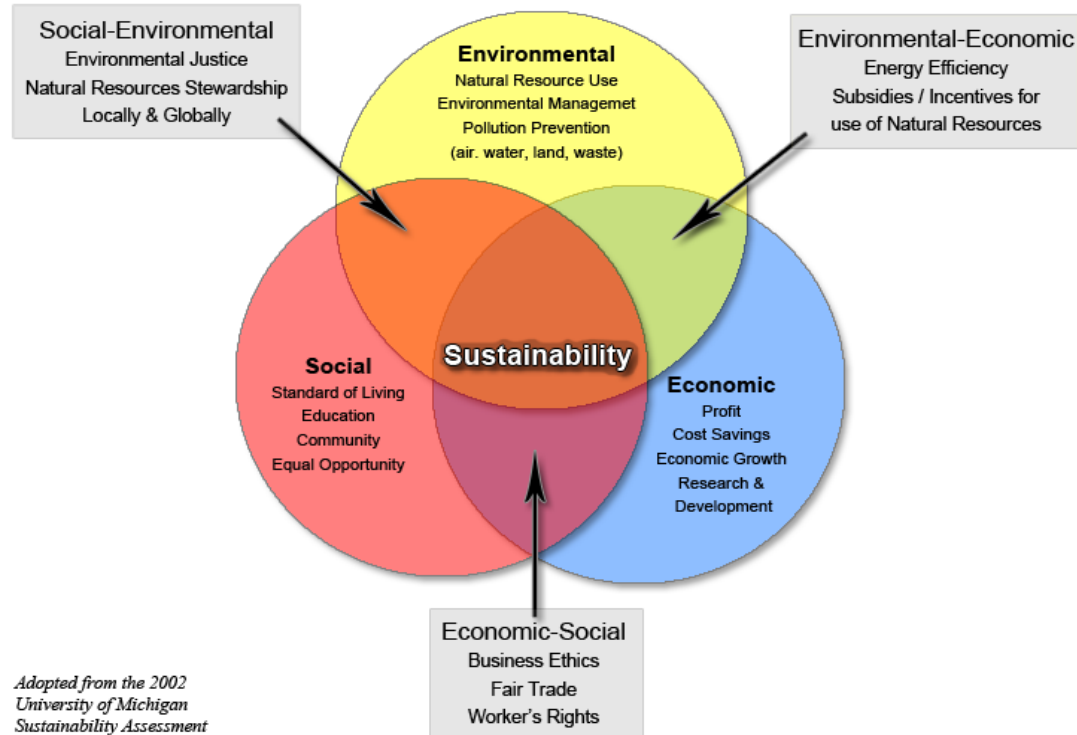
□ Environmental benefits

-Reduce organic waste through recycling or composting.

-Minimize greenhouse emissions.



How Do We Approach Urban Agriculture?



Sustainable & Urban Agriculture Program at VSU

- ❑ The SUAP program helps to address production challenges of vegetables and small fruits within an urban or suburban environment.
- ❑ SUAP provides extension education in community and institutional gardening, urban farming, and micro-farming.

Sustainable & Urban Agriculture Program at VSU

- ❑ Outreach activities include: workshops, field days on-farm demonstrations and hands-on training.
- ❑ The long-term outcome is to increase the adoption of sustainable urban agriculture practices leading to enhanced sustainability.

Sustainable & Urban Agriculture Program at VSU

☐ Some urban agriculture initiatives at VSU:

- ✓ Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate Program
- ✓ Research and demonstration sites
- ✓ Community and Institutional Gardening
- ✓ Urban Agriculture Summit
- ✓ Microfarming (New Program)

Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate Program

- ❑ In the Spring of 2017, VSU launched a 12 weeks Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate Program.
- ❑ The program was developed out of the need to address the food deserts situation in Virginia by equipping Extension educators.

Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate Program

□ The program was awarded \$350,000 by USDA/NIFA grant # 2015-38821-24339, entitled:

“From Food Deserts to Agrihoods: Transforming Food Insecure Neighborhoods with Comprehensive Urban Agriculture Education.”

Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate Program

□ Target Audiences

- Ag. Extension Agents
- Master Gardeners
- Urban farmers and gardeners

Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate Program

□ Topics covered:

- Principles of urban agriculture;
- Permaculture;
- Urban agriculture business and entrepreneurship;
- Garden pest and disease management;

Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate Program

- Urban soils and brownfields;
- Indoor production, hydroponics and aquaponics systems;
- Animal Husbandry, among other topics.

Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate Program

□ Program Structure

- 12 weeks of class instruction;
- Hands-on outdoor and greenhouse sessions;
- 80-hrs internship; and
- 30-minutes seminar themed around internship experience.

Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate Program



www.agriculture.vsu.edu

Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate Program



Spring 2017 Class

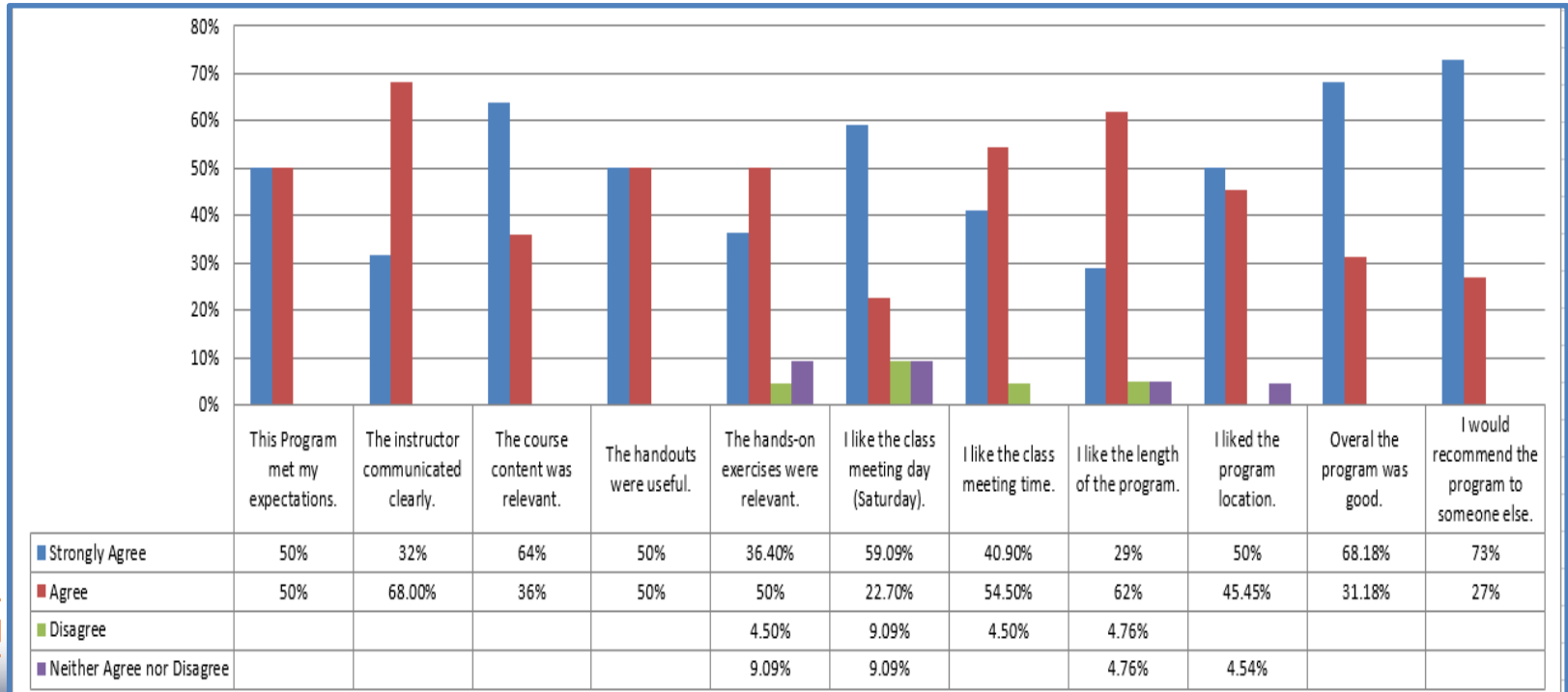
Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate Program



Spring 2017 Class

Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate Program

Program Evaluation



Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate Program

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



1st International Conference on
Urban Agriculture and City
Sustainability



Urban Agriculture 2018

NOTES TO CHAIRMEN AND PRESENTERS

Chairmen must be in their respective rooms 10 minutes before the start of their session to meet with the presenting authors.

Authors must meet with the Chairman of their session 10 minutes before the start of the session.

Authors must keep strictly to the time allocated for their presentation to ensure the smooth running of the programme.

This programme is subject to last-minute alterations, please refer to the conference noticeboard for the most up-to-date information.

9–11 October 2018
New Forest, UK

Abstracts of the Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate Program

Abstracts

Abstracts of the Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate Program are available in the following format: PDF, HTML, XML, and EPUB. The abstracts are available in the following format: PDF, HTML, XML, and EPUB. The abstracts are available in the following format: PDF, HTML, XML, and EPUB.

Table 1

Author	Title	Abstract
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Table 6

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Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate Program

Moving the Program to Distance Education

- USDA NIFA Grant Award of \$249,000 entitled:

Enhancing the Capacity of Virginia State University to Expand Urban Agriculture Education through the Distance Learning Approach

GRANT12407577 Proposal Number: 2017-07565

Research and Demonstration Sites

- Demonstration site at Randolph Farm



Research and Demonstration Sites

- ❑ On campus educational garden



Research and Demonstration Sites

- ❑ On campus educational garden



Research and Demonstration Sites

❑ Hydroponics Demo Site at Randolph



Community Gardening Projects

❑ Eden Community Garden



Community Gardening Projects

☐ Health South Hospital Garden



Urban Agriculture Summit

Overview
Keynote Speakers
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Mid-Atlantic
URBAN AGRICULTURE SUMMIT
OCTOBER 12-14, 2021

Creating Healthy Communities Through Urban Agriculture

VIRTUALLY ONLY VIA ZOOM

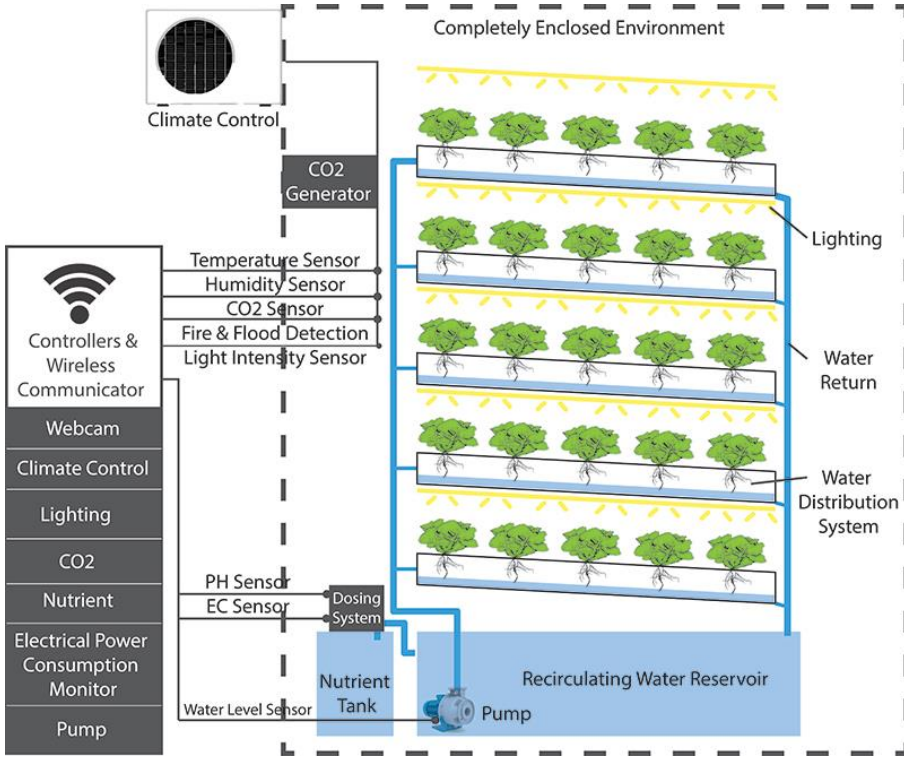
[REGISTER NOW](#)

Welcome to the first Mid-Atlantic Urban Agriculture Summit! This event launched five years ago and was formerly known as the Virginia Ag Summit. New in 2021, organizers at Virginia Cooperative Extension have extended it to the entire Mid-Atlantic region to facilitate the sharing of even more knowledge and experiences. We invite urban farmers, gardeners, policymakers, government officials, foodies and other interested

<https://www.ext.vsu.edu/midatlantic-uas>

www.agriculture.vsu.edu

Microfarming



Microfarming

- USDA NIFA Award of \$600,000 for a project entitled:

Optimized micro-farms as a potential solution to food insecurity in urban neighborhoods.

Project Number: 2021-38821-34587.

Thank you

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