

## Empowering Master Gardeners to Build their own Gardening Floating Beds

Lorna, B.<sup>1</sup>, J. Qiu<sup>2</sup>, G.Sandoya<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>lbravo1@ufl.edu

<sup>1</sup>UF/IFAS Extension Broward County, FL. <sup>2</sup> UF/FLREC Broward County, FL. <sup>3</sup>UF/EREC Palm Beach County, FL.

### Introduction:

Broward County Urban Horticulture agent worked with four UF/IFAS Extension agents and two UF faculty to conduct the first Broward County Hydroponic Solutions for Urban Food production in July 2018.

### Objective:

To educate Master Gardeners on the use of hydroponics.  
To increase Master Gardener knowledge on use of hydroponic as measured by pre & post survey.

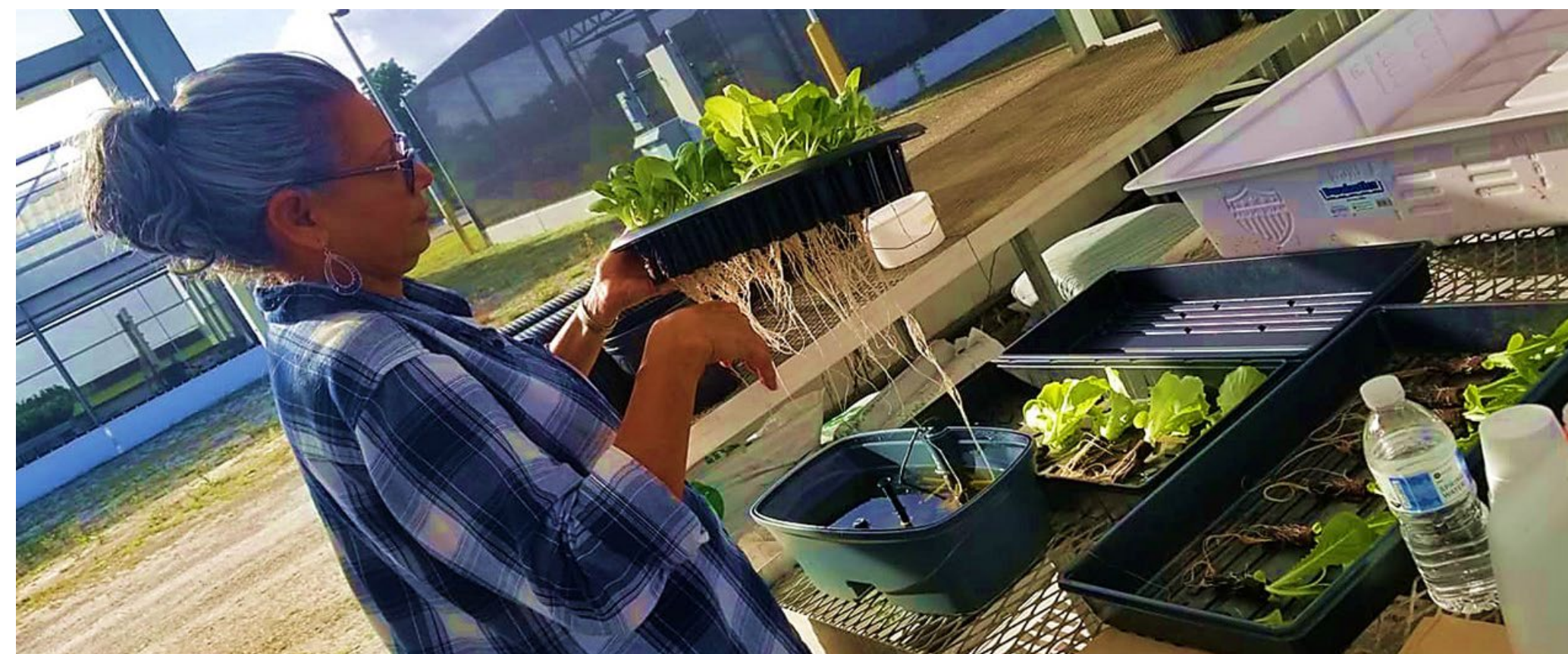
### Materials & Methods

May 2019, Master Gardeners

- Trained in urban agriculture aspects
- Water use efficiency & hydroponic systems
- Identify suitable lettuce cultivars for hydroponics
- Pre/Post survey

### Conclusion:

- 19 Master Gardeners were satisfied with the workshop
- Master Gardeners were evaluated in a pre and post survey indicating their hydroponic knowledge increased from 35% to 85%
- Participants learned to build their own hydroponic floating bed system in order to test Florida lettuce as an alternative crop for local food production.
- Broward County Extension agents and faculty will continue this program and expand the hydroponic program to other Broward county program areas in need such as 4-H.



**Figure 1:** Master Gardeners Transplanting Hydroponically Grown Lettuce



**Figure 2:** Master Gardeners Preparing the Nutrient Solution



**Figure 3:** Master Gardeners Preparing the Floating Raft System



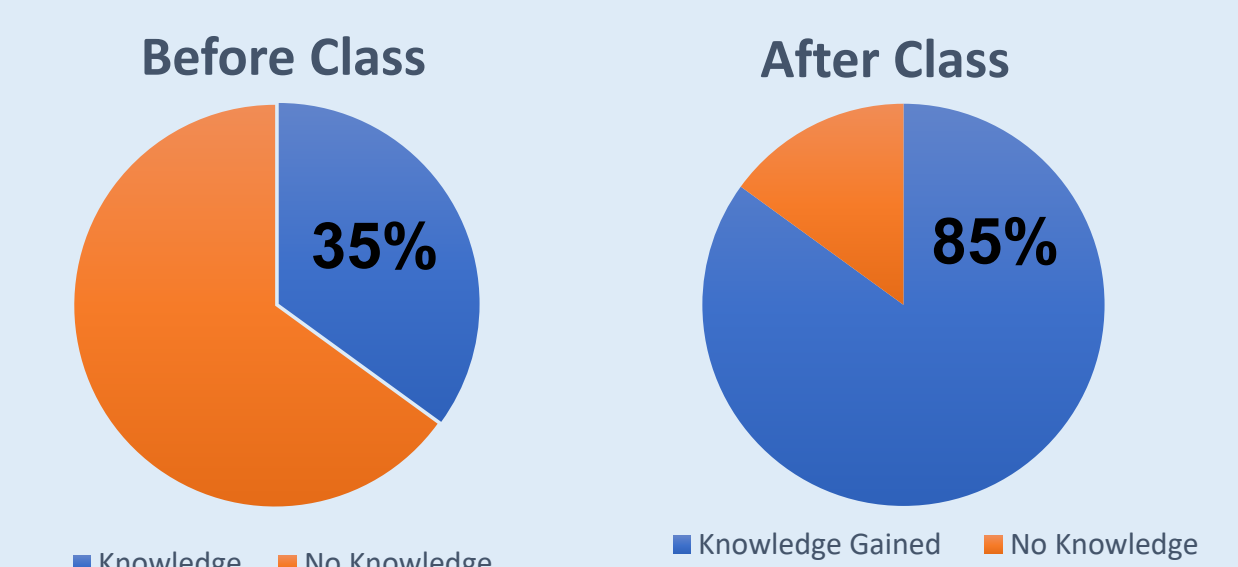
**Figure 4:** Master Gardeners Transferring Final Raft System



**Figure 5:** Final 6-Week Lettuce Project Results  
**Crop Selection:** Romaine Lettuce, Bib Lettuce & Latin Lettuce

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### **Team Acknowledgement:**

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