

FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING™: A GRASS-ROOTS RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM THAT PROMOTES URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

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Abstract

The State of Florida projects its population of 20 million to grow to 26 million over the next two decades, increasingly taxing available water resources and polluting surface and ground waters. FFL provides educational outreach to homeowners through its Florida Yards & Neighborhoods program and to commercial landscape professionals through the Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) program. These programs promote quality landscapes through appropriate landscape design, while reducing nonpoint source pollution through reduced water, fertilizer and pesticide use.



Methods

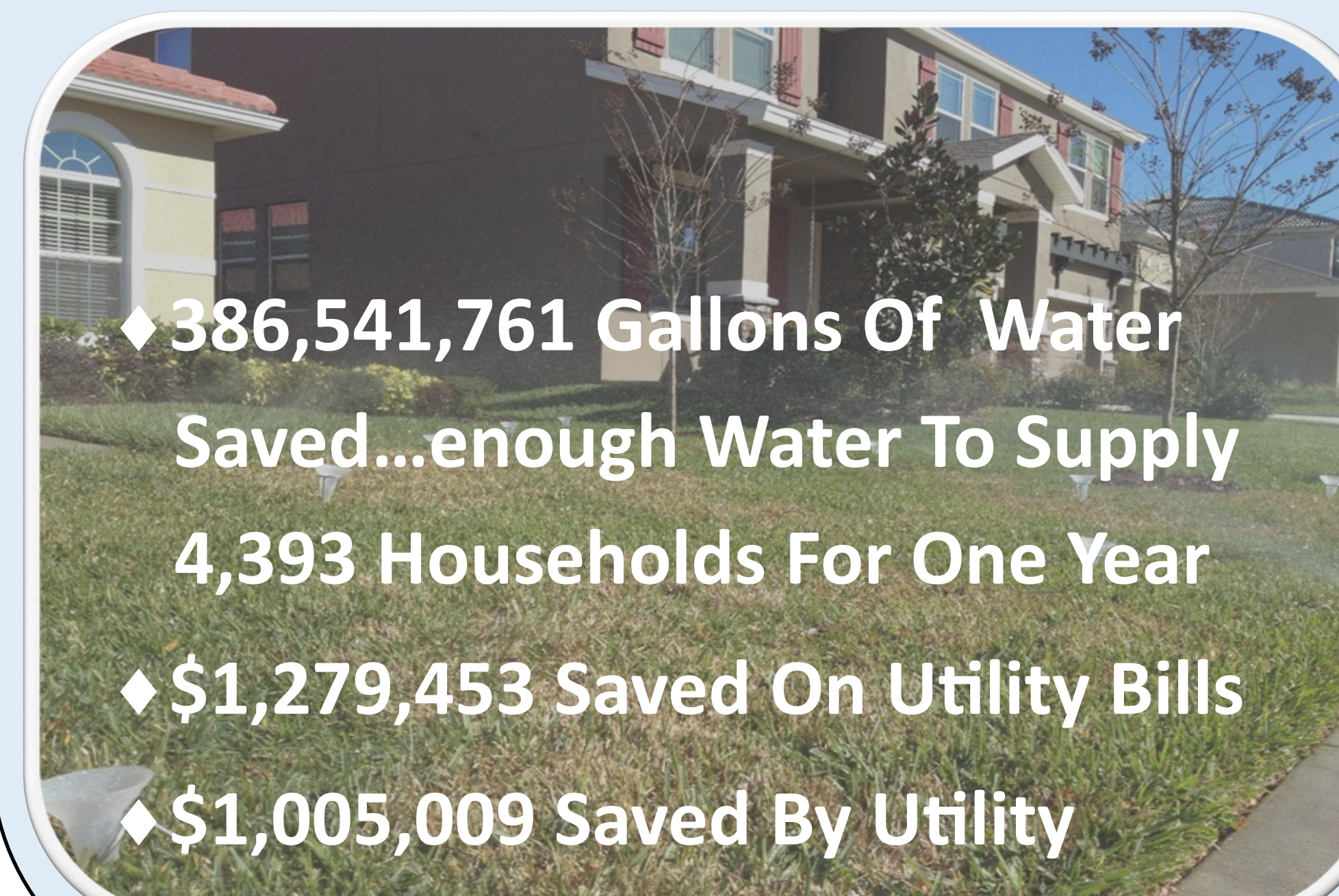
- 1) UF/IFAS administers FFL, with funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the US Environmental Protection Agency.
- 2) FFL provides educational outreach to residents, homeowners, builders and developers through its Florida Yards & Neighborhoods program and to commercial landscape professionals through the Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) program that emphasizes water conservation and the reduction of nonpoint source water pollution through reduced water, fertilizer and pesticide use.
- 3) Statewide Extension Agents and Master Gardeners engage citizens to implement landscape and water sustainability practices.
- 4) Professional programs offered in multiple languages: English, Spanish and Creole.

Homeowner Program Results

2018 Water Conservation

- 220,000 residents participated in water conservation programs
- Taught by 89 UF/IFAS Extension faculty statewide

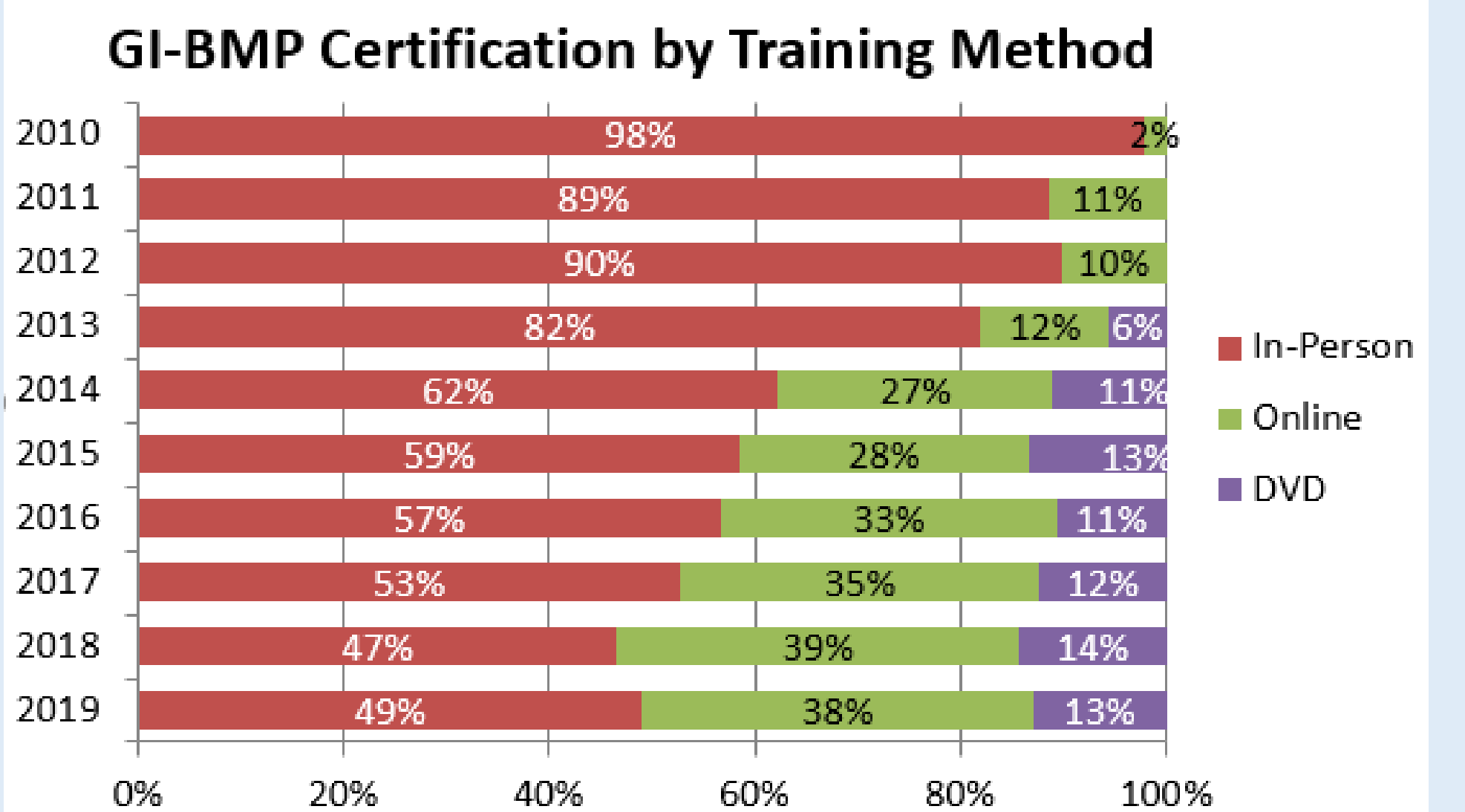
- 68% reduced irrigation to 2 days/week
- 50% reduced irrigation in winter months
- 71% reduced irrigation if adequate rainfall



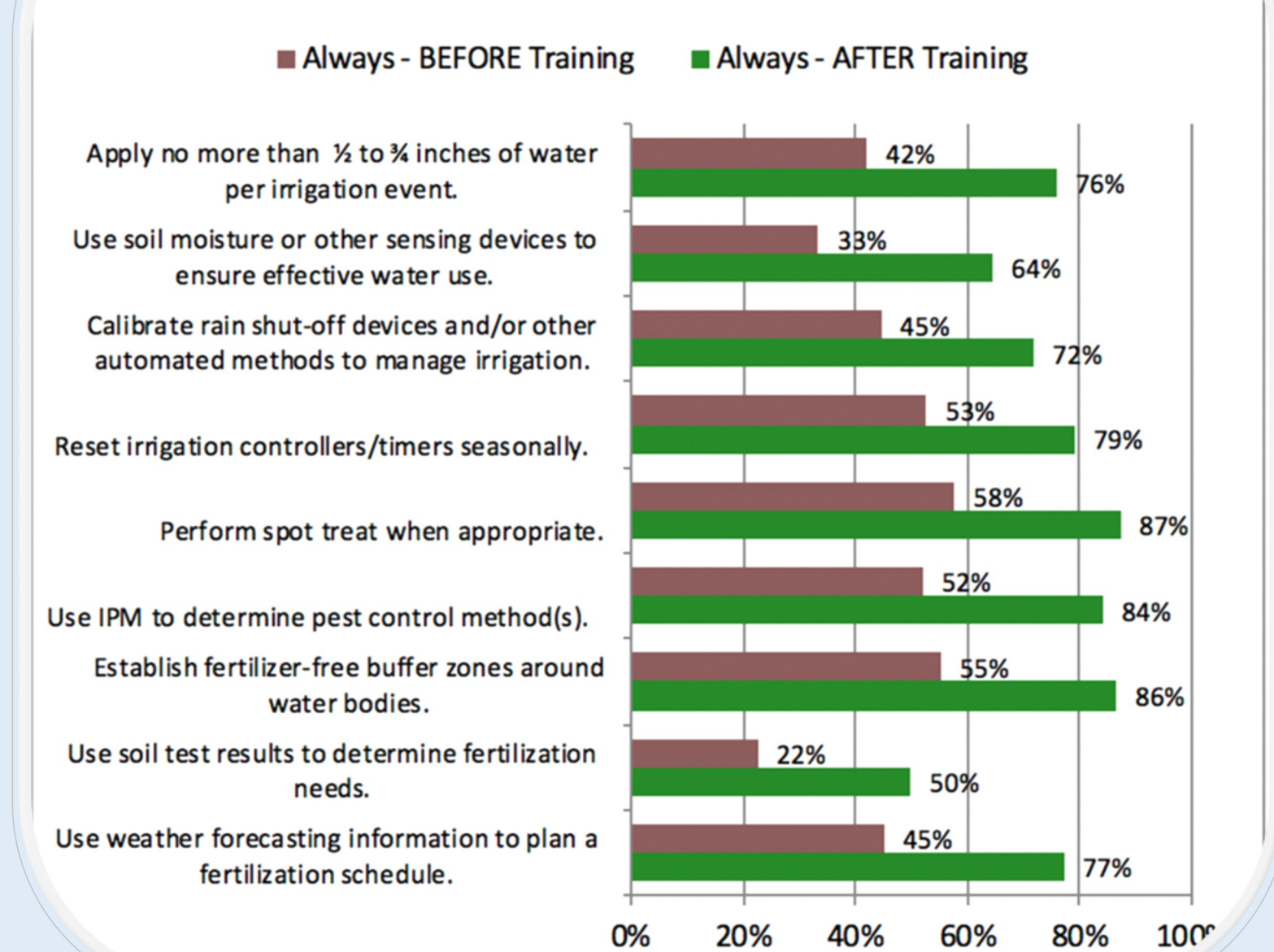
GI-BMP Program Results

From 2006 to March 2019

- Total attendance for all delivery methods is over 63,918
- 54,139 certificates issued



Reported Change in Fertilizer, Pesticide and Irrigation Practices After GI-BMP Training



Reported Change in Attitude and Communication After GI-BMP Training

