

Creating SARE field site at the Bioenergy and Sustainable Technology Laboratory

The SARE site was assigned to our project in January of 2020 at the Bioenergy and Sustainable Technology Laboratory (BEST-Lab), Gainesville, Florida. The site is 3,600 ft² (60 ft x 60 ft) in size and is located in the Southeast corner of the BEST-Lab Field Research and Demonstration Area (Figure 1). The site includes spaces for 9 raised garden beds (for soil amendment demonstration), four cultivation plots (for cover cropping and no-till demonstration), several garden pots for the demonstration of beneficial microbes, and composting piles (Figure 2).

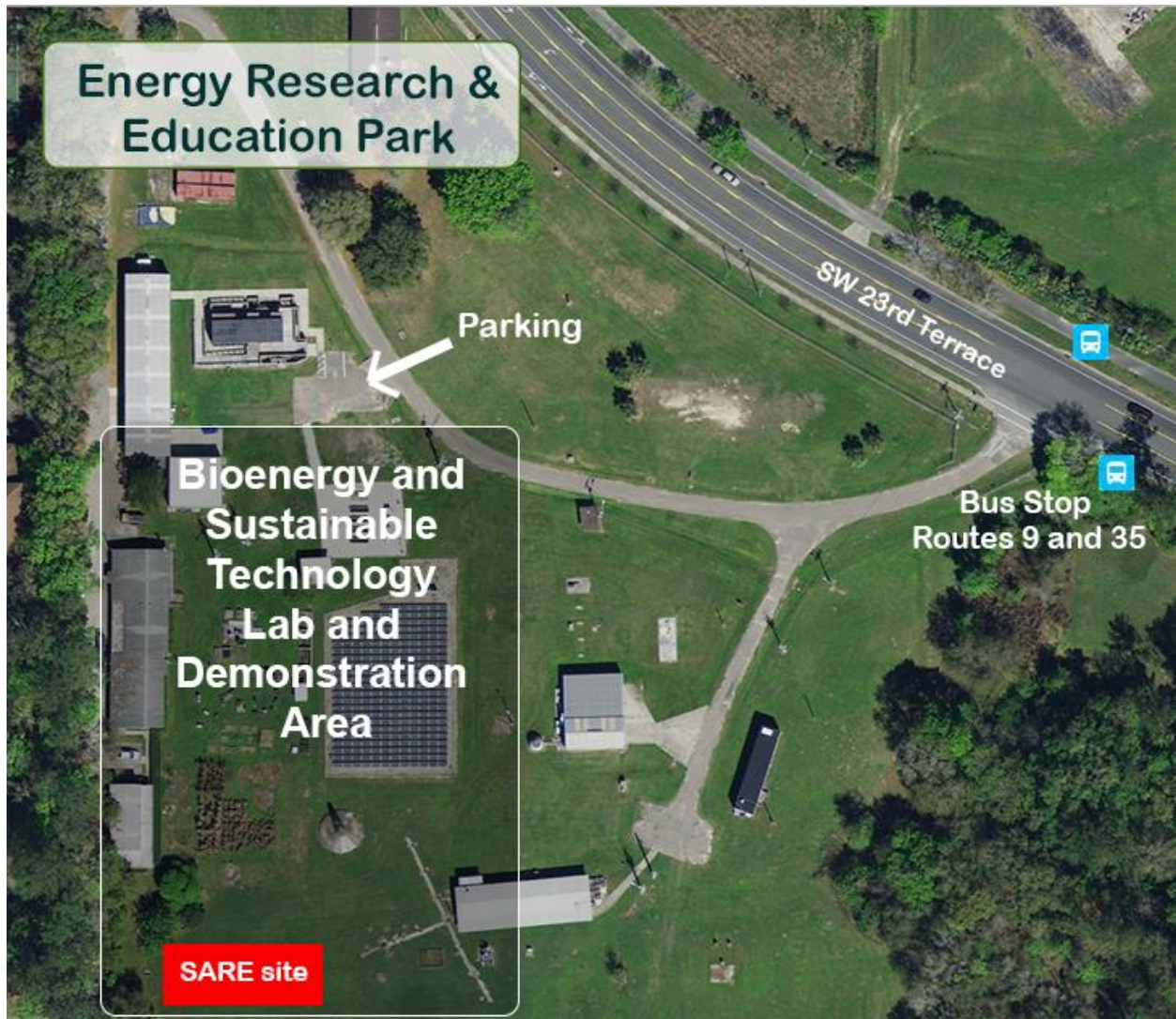


Figure 1. Location of SARE field site within the Bioenergy and Sustainable Technology Laboratory Field Research and Demonstration Area, Gainesville, FL

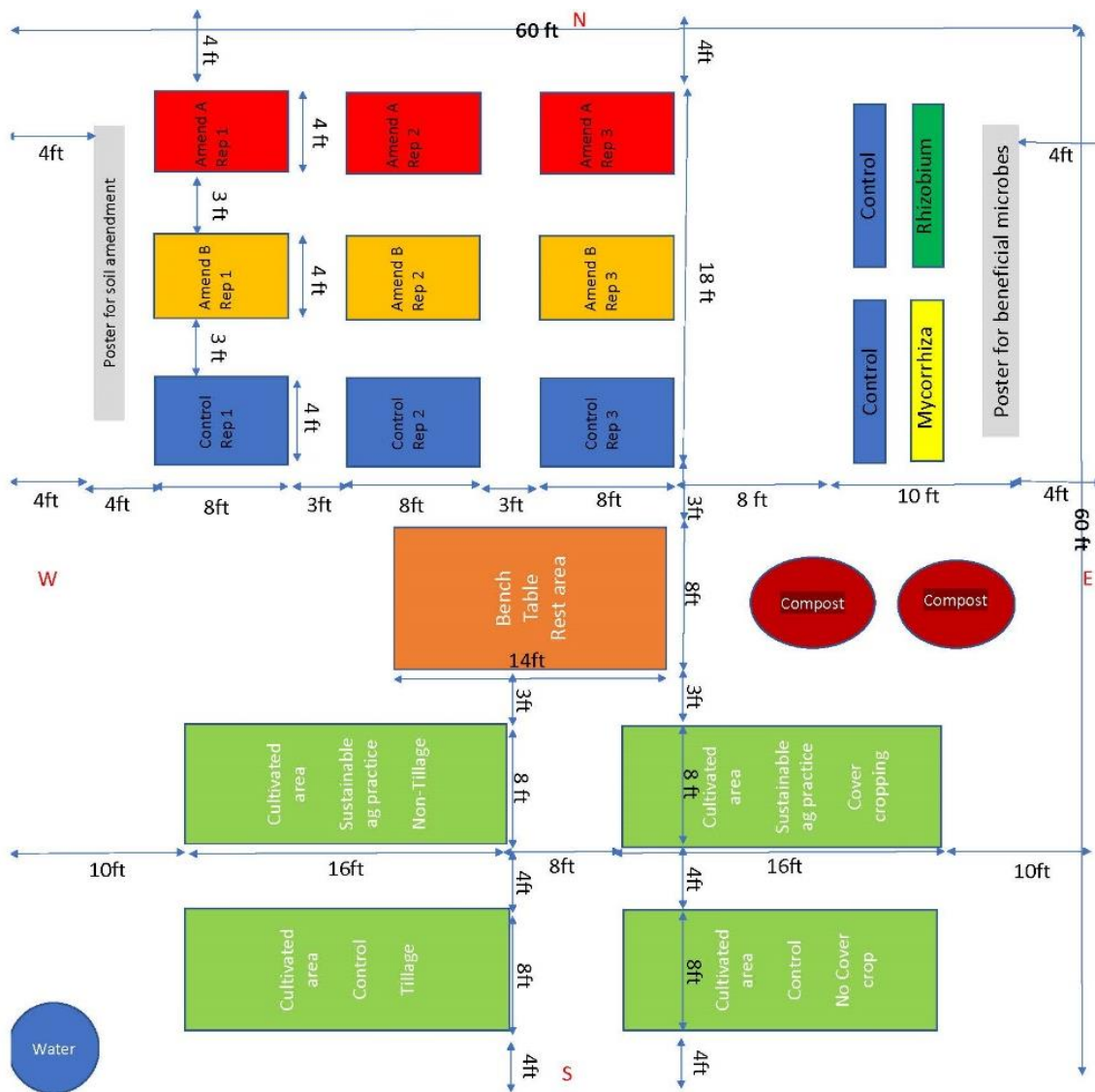


Figure 2. Field outline of SARE site

Over the last three months (from January 2020 through March 2020), major progress has been made on the SARE field site. The water line was extended to the SARE field site from one of the existing water lines in February of 2020, which allows us irrigate the plots and gardens within the SARE site. Boxes for the raised garden beds were made in January and February of 2020 (Figure 3). Locations for boxes and cultivation plots were delineated using wooden stakes in February 2020 (Figure 4). Weeds were removed from spaces for raised garden beds and cultivation plots in February 2020 (Figure 5). Seeds were purchased and germinations of those seeds were tested using both local and purchased soils (Figure 6).



Figure 3. Boxes for raised garden beds



Figure 4. Delineation of boxes and plot areas within the SARE site using wooden stakes



Figure 5. Weeding spaces for boxes and cultivation plots



Figure 6. Germination tests of seeds using both local and purchased soils.