

## Sarasota Military Academy Prep Mangrove Project

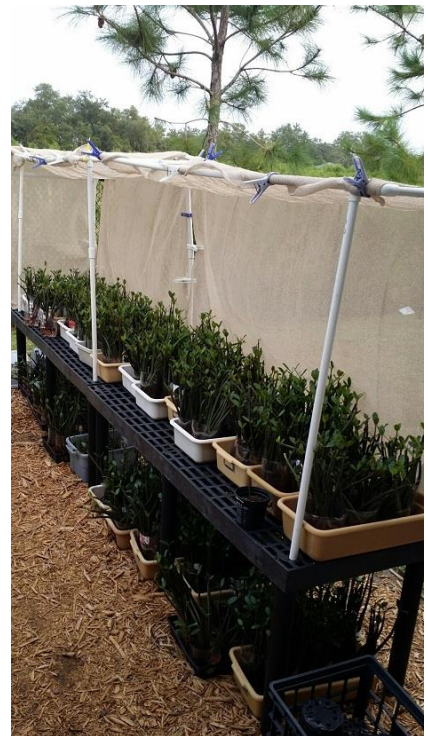
### Cultivating Red Mangrove propagules for bay replenishment



Cadets prepare mangroves for a Sarasota County free give-a-way

Each August, cadets collect stranded Red Mangrove propagules (seeds) from local beaches and waterways. (As long as the "props" are not rooted in the sand or rocks, they are able to be removed). Annually, cadets collect between 3000-5000 propagules for cultivation.

The props are then grown at school in fresh water, taking several months to develop their characteristic red roots and shiny leaves. About semester's end, they are ready to find a home in a Florida waterway.



In the past, the mini-mangrove trees have been used by environmental groups such as Mote Marine, Sarasota County, Sarasota Bay Buddies, City of Sarasota, and MANG in Palm Beach county.



In 2018, 3000 props were picked up by the [MANG](#) brothers from Palm Beach, two amazing guys who are giving back to our Florida waterways. They plan to return every year!

Middle school students often find it difficult to give back to their community because of their young age. This project is perfect for those who wish to collect or cultivate native plants to improve the local environment!