

Lakeside Rooftop Garden



Originally installed in 2010 with the completion of the Lakeside dining facility, the rooftop greenscape was the first of its kind on the campus of Elon University. Viewers can catch a glimpse of the garden from windows on the second floor of Moseley Center or take a closer look from the second-floor patio of Lakeside. This rooftop garden provided LEED points for an environmentally sustainable building.

The rooftop garden consists of a LiveRoof system. In the LiveRoof system, 1 ft x 2 ft tray modules make up the 500 trays in the system. The soil in the trays is approximately 4 ¼ inches deep. Succulent ground covers, water conserving accent plants, and certain hardy bulbs do well in this system.

Challenging conditions make unique opportunities for some of the ground covers to grow well versus others that do not do so well. For example, on a sunny 95 F degree day, a roof can reach temperatures of 170 F or higher. Also, being located on a roof, plants are fully exposed to windy conditions that can cause them to suffer from drought quicker. In turn, this is also an advantage of a green roof. The added plantings help to keep the building cooler, providing green to an otherwise black or white roof surface.