



The Green Machine

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WANT BETTER PEST CONTROL? Learn how to apply IPM principles to your pest problem!

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What is IPM? IPM stands for Integrated Pest Management. It is a method used in controlling pests. It involves using tools that target only the pest problem and not other organisms that are not part of the problem. A "pest" can be many things. A pest can be a plant (weed), insect (fire ant) or rodent (rat). The problem is that not all plants (tomato) insects (lady bug), or mammals (horses) are pests! In fact, some of them are very beneficial to have a round!

Why is it necessary? Because there is a great balance to all living things. If pests are not carefully dealt with then one of two things often happens. First, if you use the same poison repeatedly a pest can develop a resistance to the poison. Secondly, especially in the case of insects, poisons will kill good ones that hunt down and eat the bad ones.

For these reasons studies have been done on many pests to identify the most effective strategies to control them. This science has evolved into an art known as Integrated Pest Management.

Right now your extension office has organized a volunteer group called the Buzz Busters which are active in learning about and applying these techniques to mosquito population control in Bradford County.

There will be a free Saturday morning workshop offered to the public on April 28th. The workshop will feature experts on IPM with respect to mosquito control. You will learn a lot about this amazing insect and most importantly, the best ways to control it.

These same principles can be applied to controlling other pests as well.

See the last page of this newsletter for more details.

Local Extension Office News and Area Workshops

The Bradford County Extension Service is supported by a collaboration of federal, state and county resources. Its beginnings stem from the land grant efforts where the federal government assists with the transfer of university information to local communities. One important aspect of the extension service is that local community members participate in shaping the programming within the county. This is accomplished through an advisory committee that represents the local community.

As your extension agent, I need to form an advisory board that will work with me to shape and enhance programming in my program areas which include agriculture, horticulture and community development. If you are interesting in serving on this advisory board call the extension office at 904-966-9224 to arrange for an interview. There is room for only six to ten positions on the advisory committee so, unfortunately, all that apply will not be selected. Your participation in this process is greatly appreciated.

The Clay County Extension Center will be holding a **"Hobby Beekeeper Short Course", Saturday, May 5th** at the Center. The course is designed to educate participants about the beneficial necessity of honey bees and explain the fundamentals of beekeeping. The registration deadline is May 2nd. Call the Clay Extension Center at 904-284-6355 for more information.

Plan on attending the **Suwannee Valley Twilight Field Day on Tuesday May 1st**. The field day will feature on farm demonstrations in vegetable production, hydroponics, forage crops, fruit crops and forestry. If you attended the local workshops which covered these same topics and want a more in depth learning experience then plan on attending this workshop. It will be held at the Live Oak Teaching Farm from 3 to 8 pm. You can choose from any one of the five tours before the dinner and then choose a second tour after the meal. There will also be a course offered from 2 pm until 3 pm on Effective Advertising and Display (seating limited). The registration deadline is April 27th but the fee is reduced from \$20 to \$15 if you register before April 20th. Call 386-362-1725 ext 101 to register.

Starke now has a bio-diesel distributor. If you want to try a bio-based fuel in your farm equipment this is a good opportunity to try some of the product. **Before you use these new fuels you need to read the owners manual for each piece of equipment to find out the manufacturers fuel specifications regarding the use of alternative fuels.** If any producers try these products please keep me informed as to how well the new fuels perform in you equipment. Call Eco-Safe at 904-859-2424 for more information.





Master Gardener News



Several Quality Plants Displayed at the Bradford County Fair



Thanks to all who entered plants in the annual open horticultural and agricultural plant shows and for making them a success! Both shows were very interesting because there was a big variety of plants displayed in each booth. As a result the booths were educational as well as pleasant to look at.

Highlights from the horticultural booth included several blue ribbon plants in all classes. In the first stage of the judging, plants are judged against accepted standards and not against each other. Plants that stand out within each class are identified in the second phase of the competition. Finally, the judges choose overall best of show entries. Betty Williams' begonia won best of show in the horticultural exhibit. John Steyer won the best of show in the agricultural division for his white and green kale entry. In all there were 229 plants displayed in both booths including several youth entries.

The agricultural exhibits included many standard vegetables including tomatoes, lettuces and herbs but also included unique specimens like a monster dikon radish and a malabar spinach hanging basket.

2007 Plant Exhibits	Adult	Youth
Class	Entries	Entries
Cactus & Succulents	25	7
Hanging Baskets	5	
Non-flowering Houseplants	25	2
Flowering Houseplants	35	
Miscellaneous	9	3
Fruit Crops	8	
Vegetable Crops	110	





Master Gardener News



Volunteer Spirit Contributed to Bradford County Fair Experience

Can't thank them enough! VOLUNTEERS! So many worthy causes are carried out by them! This past March three booths at the Bradford County Fair that were sponsored by the Bradford County Extension Service were designed, built and staffed by volunteers. There are four groups of volunteers who need to be recognized (this is dangerous because there are so many that it is easy to leave out SOMEBODY, so if I forget to mention you please forgive me):

First - Our local strawberry producers. In all they donated 40 flats of strawberries that were auctioned off to raise money for our 4H Foundation Scholarship Fund. In all our community donated around \$4500 for our youth's development.

Second - To all those who financially supported the fund raising events. I won't mention names but you know who you are.

Third - To Paradise Nursery for lending plants to round out our "right plant right place" teaching lesson in the horticultural booth.

And Fourth - To our Master Gardener Volunteers. During the course of the BC Fair they donated 136 hours of their time providing information to 527 private citizens. They provided training on a variety of topics including tips for developing attractive eco-friendly landscape, soil testing, mosquito and honey bee education and a variety of other topics.

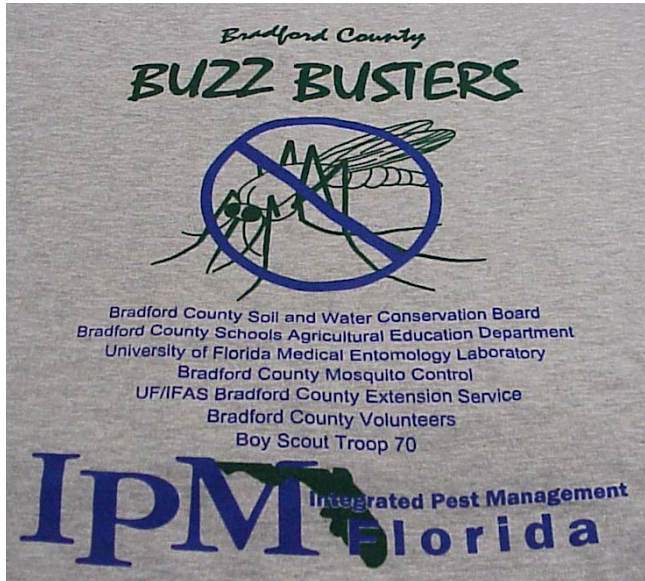


VOLUNTEERS—IN ACTION!



Left: Master Gardener Tracey Davis constructed this rain barrel and brochure to show how to conserve water for a landscape. Above: Greg Champion shares his expertise on honey bees and mosquitoes.

Mosquito Control Workshop Announcement



Picture of the Buzz Buster T-Shirt

Program Topics:

Mosquitoes Are Cool

Alex Chaskopoulou (UF-IFAS Entomology)

An Overview of Bradford County's Buzz Busters

Jim DeValerio (UF - IFAS Bradford County Extension Service)

Mosquito Identification Exercise

Jim DeValerio (UF - IFAS Bradford County Extension Service)

Public Health and the Mosquito:

A Florida, USA and Worldwide Prospective

Roxanne Connelly, Ph.D., (Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory)

New Mosquito Control Equipment & Larvicides

Jim Barr (Adapco, Inc)

Trapping Mosquitoes

Bill Schirrmacher (Buzz Buster Volunteer)

LUNCH

Questions and Answers, Wrap-up and Evaluation

BUZZ BUSTERS Mosquito Bash

Saturday,

April 28th, 2007

10:00 am - 1:00 pm at
the

Bradford County
Extension Service

This will be an interesting workshop for anyone who is interested in the life cycle of this amazing insect.

It will be both fun and practical.

The more we understand about the mosquito the more effectively we can control the population of this dangerous insect.

This workshop will also specifically prepare Buzz Buster volunteers for the 2007 season.

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Lunch will be provided. PLEASE call 966-6224 to pre-register so we know how many people to plan for.

Licensed pest control operators can get **3 Public Health CEUs** for attending this workshop.

For individuals with disabilities requiring special accommodations, please contact the Bradford County Extension Service at least 5 working days prior to the program in order for proper consideration to be given to the request. An Equal Opportunity Institution