



# The Green Machine

Dedicated to improving the quality of life for future generations through education.

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**SOLUTIONS**  
for *your* LIFE

## Holiday Greetings From Your Extension Office

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Things are changing around the extension office. As you can see from the picture above, the south end of the extension office has a new look. This is one of several projects that are going to be completed by April of 2008. The Bradford County Extension office, along with the Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District will receive a grant from the Suwannee River Water Management District to develop water conservation education programs with respect to landscapes.

It is important to note that we are still in a drought. You may not hear a lot about it since we have had enough rain to reduce the risk of wildfire but our water is in short supply. We have not had enough rain to re-charge our ground water and the forecast is for low rainfall again in 2008. Be sure to take this into account when making decisions about how to manage your farm or garden next year.

You may want to consider switching to drip irrigation for row crop production if you haven't already. Drip irrigation puts the water where you need it, not on the weeds.



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The 2007 Class of Bradford County Master Gardeners didn't waste anytime getting involved with their Master Gardener activities. Pictured above are the MGs learning about lawn grubs in class, enjoying graduation day at a poinsettia cultivar screening and working on a demonstration landscape project. Both "seasoned" and "brand new" MGs contribute to horticultural education projects in Bradford County.

Thanks to all of them for their volunteer spirit!



Hopefully, by the time you read this we will have had enough cool weather to make the mosquitoes go away until next spring! In December I'm more focused on the Christmas Holidays, family time, football playoffs or maybe enjoying a nice crisp day in the woods - anything but mosquitoes. But this is a good time to report how much work was done by a lot of dedicated volunteers to safeguard all of us from mosquitoes and the diseases they may carry. Listed below are some of the accomplishments we had this year. I want to personally thank all those individuals or agencies who helped make this effort successful. Here are some interesting facts:

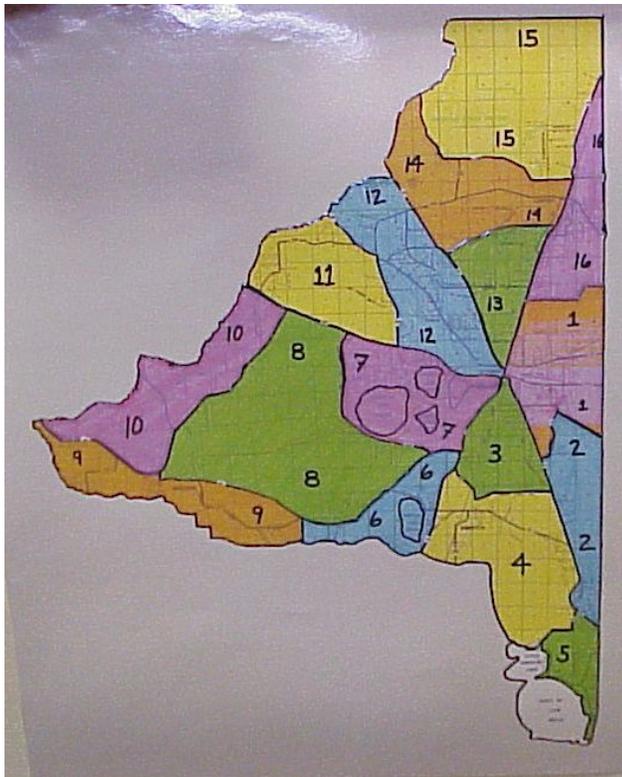
Buzz Buster Volunteers donated 378.75 hours tracking mosquito populations in Bradford County. Some estimate the value of volunteer service to be \$18/hour. That would mean the Buzz Buster program saved the county \$6,817.50.

The Buzz Busters collected a total of 264 samples and used eco-friendly larvicides when appropriate throughout the season. Their trapping efforts were done in zones marked in red in the table below.

Based on adult trapping results, the Bradford County Mosquito Control was alerted to spray for adult mosquitoes 16 times.

Buzz Buster Volunteer Bill Schirmmacher taught Starke Elementary's third grade class all about mosquitoes and the Buzz Buster program.

*The Buzz Buster* mosquito collection sites (in red) from July thru October 2007:



Zone	Sq. Mi.
1	19
2	13
3	10
4	28
5	7
6	11
7	18
8	43
9	19
10	23
11	16
12	21
13	9
14	15
15	29
16	11
Sum	215 out of 292 sq. miles

Bradford Farmers Market To Open January 5th, 2008

- The market opens every Saturday from 8 am until noon.
- It is located at the Bradford County Healthy Department Grounds.
- The market specializes in goods that are “made, baked or grown” within 25 miles of Starke.



Columbia County Extension is sponsoring a workshop series entitled “**Ca\$hing in on Value Added Business Opportunities**”. The workshops will be held on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30 to 9pm at the Columbia Co. Extension Office in Lake City. **RSVP necessary by Jan. 7 to lock in spot as space is limited.** The cost is \$5 per session. Scheduled topics include:

- January 8      PART I: Sharpen Your Entrepreneurial Skills
- January 10     PART II: Get Down to Business
- January 15     PART III: Plan as You Expand
- January 17     PART IV: Boost Your Bottom Line

There will be a workshop entitled, “**Better Ways For Waterways**” offered January 22nd at the Bradford County Fairgrounds from 4:00 pm until 9 pm. Registration will be from 4:00 to 5:00 when people can eat and view displays set up by agencies. The workshop will cover many topics of interest to individuals who live on Bradford County's lakes and streams, have farm ponds or who are just interested in lake, stream and pond management. Various state agencies that are valuable resources to land owners will be present at the meeting. Topics covered will include nutrient management, Best Management Practices for waterfront landscapes, invasive plants, biology and hydrology of our lakes and lake water quality. There will be a small fee to cover the cost of supper. RSVP at the Bradford County Extension Office.

The Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District is **looking for volunteers to identify and map invasive plants** in Bradford County. For information contact Paul Still 904 368-0291 or [stillpe@aol.com](mailto:stillpe@aol.com). There is a Forest Stewardship Workshop: Invasive Exotic Plants and Their Control February 7, 2008, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Austin Cary Memorial Forest, 10625 NE Waldo Road, Gainesville, that volunteers can attend to get training about invasive plants.

Bradford and Surrounding Counties Declared Natural Disaster Areas

USDA DESIGNATES 58 FLORIDA COUNTIES AS PRIMARY NATURAL DISASTER AREAS Decision Allows Farmers and Ranchers to Apply for USDA Assistance. (WASHINGTON, Nov. 27, 2007) - The U.S. Department of Agriculture designated 58 Florida counties as primary natural disaster areas because of losses **caused by drought** that occurred on Jan. 1, 2007, and continuing.

All 58 counties were designated natural disaster areas on Nov. 26, 2007, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

USDA has also made other programs available to assist farmers and ranchers, including the Emergency Conservation Program, Federal Crop Insurance and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at:

<http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

