



Abbey Payne

Jackson County Extension Agent I, Horticulture
Northwest Extension District

Profile

As the Jackson County Commercial & Environmental Horticulture Agent, I provide consultation and educational programs to specialty crop farmers in the county, which includes fruit and vegetable producers as well as ornamental, nut, and sod production growers.

I am the coordinator of the Jackson County Master Gardener Volunteer Program, which provides homeowners with educational programming and consultation on gardening, lawn, and landscape maintenance.

My educational programming utilizes a wide range of tools for local horticulturists such as educational classes, electronic newsletters, publications, and educational videos.

Contact

850-482-9620
payne.abigail@ufl.edu
2741 Penn Ave, STE 3
Marianna, FL 32448



www.facebook.com/UFJacksonCoFL

www.facebook.com/JacksonFLMasterGardeners/

Educational Programs

Sustainable Practices for Residential Landscaping and Master Gardener Volunteer Development in Jackson County

The horticulture industry is a key role in the economy of Jackson County. Education of its producers on sustainable practices is essential for developing the industry and ensuring its producers stay in business. Many economic and ecological challenges face landscapers and homeowners of Jackson County. Among these are the rising cost of fuel, fertilizer, seed, pesticides, equipment, and the introduction and spread of non-native pest species. This program provides educational opportunities to homeowners, business owners, and Master Gardener Volunteers in Jackson County, along with the incorporation of 4H-Youth. The goal of this program is to increase awareness and adoption of the Florida Friend Landscaping™ (FFL) Principles, while also teaching clientele different methods of sustainable home horticulture.

Improving Sustainable Horticulture Production in Jackson County

Sustainable production horticulture and agriculture practices are essential to the long-term viability and natural resources of Jackson County. With the rising numbers of first time and young farmers entering the production population, improving existing practices and providing educational information and programming targeted to youth and small farm operations is needed. This program provides educational opportunities to commercial horticulture growers of Jackson County and surrounding counties. Educational methods include field days, professional meetings, and individual telephone, email, and office consultations.

Experience

Commercial & Environmental Horticulture Agent
UF/IFAS Extension, Jackson County
2023-Present

Program Technician
USDA Farm Service Agency, Jackson County
2022-2023

Assistant Grower
Oglesby Plants International, Inc.
2021-2022

Professional Preparation

Bachelor Science in General Agriculture, Minor in Floriculture
Western Kentucky University, 2020

Private Pesticide Applicator
FDACS, 2021-Present