

# Garden Notes

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## Great Florida Pollinator Census

UF IFAS Escambia Extension will host a pollinator counting event on Friday, August 23 from 10 a.m. - Noon. You may count pollinators on a plant in the demonstration garden for 15 minutes during this time with some Master Gardener Volunteer help if needed.



## Mealybug destroyer

Although the insect pictured left looks like the pest mealybug, it is actually an immature lady beetle. Both adults and immatures eat soft bodied plant pests such as mealybugs and aphids. You can identify them by the white wooly protuberances that stick out in several directions.



## African Blue Basil

We normally plant basil to have a source of fresh leaves for pesto, salads, and sandwiches.

The hybrid basil, African blue has another purpose. The sterile pink flowers emerging on long flower stalks are very attractive to pollinators. This is a terrific warm season companion plant as well for the edible garden.

In North Florida, African blue basil will generally be an annual. Add plants to full sun areas and water as needed. Take cuttings before a freeze to have plants for the next season.