

# POLK COUNTY FACTSHEET

## BASKETGRASS

### What is Basketgrass?

Basketgrass is the common name of a species of *Oplismenus*, a weed commonly found in shady lawns and landscapes. It is also known as woodsgrass, jewgrass and wavyleaf basketgrass. Many species of *Oplismenus* grow in Central Florida and *Oplismenus setarius* is a native perennial while *Oplismenus hirtellus* is an introduced exotic. Both species, and others, can be troublesome in home lawns.

### Why is it a problem?

Basketgrass is problematic in shady areas of the landscape where, once established, it can be difficult to eradicate. It is shade-tolerant, low-growing and can easily take over an area where turfgrass may be struggling. It requires little to no irrigation or maintenance and will create a dense groundcover if left alone.

### How can I get rid of it?

Basketgrass can be difficult to remove. It can be hand pulled and dug up. A 2-3 inch layer of organic mulch should be applied over the area. After hand removal, consider planting with a more desirable groundcover such as Asiatic Jasmine (*Trachelospermum asiaticum*) or Liriope (*Liriope muscari*). Both will handle shady landscapes and grow well under trees. Over time, they may out-



PHOTO BY: ANNE YASALONIS

compete the basketgrass.

An herbicide, such as glyphosate, may also be used to remove basketgrass. Use caution if spraying under or near trees and other plant material as glyphosate products are not selective and will damage and/or kill desirable plants as well. Always follow the instructions on the label when applying an herbicide product.



PHOTO BY: JOANNE GILMORE



PHOTO BY: POLK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

## Where can I find more information?

*Oplismenus burmannii*:

<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=4247>

*Oplismenus hirtellus*:

<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=3707>

*Oplismenus setarius*:

<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=4892>

For a list of our programs and related topics,  
go to our website <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/polk>

## Or, Call your County Extension Agent:

Anne Yasalonis

Residential Horticulture Agent

Master Gardener Coordinator

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Plant Clinic

P: (863) 519-1057

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Walk in: 1702 US Hwy 98 South, Bartow