

Application for the Alachua County Small Farmer Grant

Grant Due 5 PM June 28, 2024

Name of Applicant:	Jennifer Speedy
Email:	flatwoodflowers@gmail.com
Phone Number:	561-302-6497
Address of Farm/Small Producer Operation. Please include the parcel number.	Flatwood Flowers 1680 SE 23 rd PL Gainesville, Fl 32641 16107-200-013
Total Funding Requested (request may not exceed \$5,000);	\$4,422.36
My operation's total Gross Cash Income per year is between \$1,000 and \$250,000 (yes / no)	
AND (Please select one below)	
Between \$1,000 and \$75,000.	
Between \$75,001 and \$150,000.	
Between \$150,001 and \$250,000.	
The owner and operator of the farm has <u>not received</u> the Small Farmer Grant in the past two years (yes / no)	

The owner and operator of the farm/small producer operation is a black, women, indigenous, and or persons-of-color. (**yes** / no)

The owner and operator of the farm is a first-time applicant OR has not received a Small Farmer Grant award in the past two years. (**yes/no**)

If awarded the funding will only be used to purchase equipment or other capital investments that enhance the economic productivity of my operation. (**yes** / no)

Prompt : Explain what equipment is needed, its cost, how it will be utilized, and economic return to your operations.

If you have taken the Extension Office's Agricultural Entrepreneurial Series, please attach your Farm Plan. (5 bonus points)

I am asking for this grant to fund an irrigation system for the farm. This specific irrigation system will guarantee reliability and increase the yield of my crops, save a significant amount of time in my labor, and will allow me to scale up to farm more land. This generous grant will help Flatwood Flowers create great efficiency and grant longevity to this business.

Let me tell you a little about Flatwood Flowers. After spending nearly a decade growing vegetables for another local Alachua County farm- I decided to start my own flower farm in Gainesville, FL. I focus on growing edible flowers along with cut flowers while also continuing to grow my fruit tree orchard. I saw a hole in the market for organic and sustainably grown edible flowers. So many flowers that can be grown here are delicious and have great nutritional benefits. Some of these flowers include calendula, borage, snapdragons, nasturtiums, pansies, stock, bachelors button, sunflower, marigolds, cosmos, dill flowers, cilantro flowers, and more! I have sold edible flowers to restaurants in Gainesville and at many of the farmers markets around town. The response I have received from the community has proved to be very supportive. Whether they are buying edible flowers or cut flowers to fill a mason jar, the community is happy to source flowers locally. The local flower farming movement is just gaining traction here in Florida and among the USA. Most flowers

are imported from South America and the working and growing conditions are among the worst of all farming practices. All edible and cut flowers you can buy at the store are heavily sprayed and often (if not always) use exploited labor. I find that educating my community on flower farming practices is really important just as is it for all farming practices, however, flower farming isn't widely talked about.

I have been growing flowers on ¼ acre. My farm plan is to increase production by 100% each season for the next two seasons. Fall 2024- Spring 2025 I plan to scale up to ½ acre. Fall 2025-Spring 2026 increase production to 1 acre and reach 2 acres by Fall 2026. I currently have over 15 varieties of citrus planted on the farm and each Spring I plan to plant another 20-30 fruit trees in the orchard (all different kinds for example more citrus, persimmons, peach, plum, pear and pomegranate). An irrigation system is something I have been dreaming about for years as this farm has started up. My current setup involves hiking to the back of the property, running down a 20ft drainage ditch, back up a 20ft drainage ditch, to a pond on the NE corner of the property, then filling a stand-alone manual generator pump with a heavy gas can of non-ethanol gas, then cranking the pump on (to have it fail about 50% of the time- often times spending anywhere from 30 minutes to 2 hours a day trying to fix it), and then not being able to manage how much water the field gets (or doesn't get) because there is no timer.

In short, this grant will help Flatwood Flowers create a streamlined way to irrigate the farm. This irrigation system saves energy by running off of electricity instead of gas, it will have a built-in timer that senses rain amounts, sun intensity, and day length changes and will adjust water output making this sustainable without me having to spend a significant chunk of the day trying to crank up the old irrigation system. This past season the current irrigation ~~season~~ was the most fickle. I estimated losing about 20% of my crop based on lack of proper irrigation this past season. When bringing in only about \$11,100 this season – losing ~\$2,220 is a significant loss. My farm financial plan is to double the gross income this coming season (Fall 2024- Spring 2025) and to continue doubling gross income for the following two seasons. If I continue to use the same irrigation system in place, I would expect to lose over \$25,000 in potential revenue over that time (not to mention a lot of lost time continuing to diagnose and fix the myriad of issues). The irrigation system will also decrease the amount of money spent on energy – the cost of electricity as opposed to gas will cut costs by ~\$40/month. Between the estimated crop losses next year using the same

faulty irrigation system on twice the land (\$4,440/year) and the energy savings (\$480/year), the new irrigation system would have over a 100% ROI in the first season.

This irrigation system will allow me to expand my operation to grow on all 10 acres one day. After much research and many calculations the specific irrigation set up described below is the right size and system for this scale farm.

Break down of the irrigation system that will work best for the farm:

1. Centrifugal surface pump – Stay-rite 3 horsepower DHH pump

Rainflo irrigation supply sell this pump for \$2450

(Photo attached)

This pump will allow the right amount of pressure and volume of water to make it from the pond at the back of the property to the flower field. And this capacity allows for me to expand the farm up to 10 acres (which will include watering the current fruit trees planted in the center of property).

2. 2-2-4-6 aluminum direct burial wire (about 200-250 ft) \$400 rough pricing from city electric supply

This will connect power source to ideal location of pump.

3. 20ft 3in PVC \$49 (\$2.45/ft) home depot

This allows for the suction mechanism to reach far enough into the pond to uptake water.

4. 500ft 2in PVC \$885 (\$1.77/ft) home depot

This allows for the water to travel from pump down to the flower fields.

5. Rainbird esp-me3 irrigation timer \$254.23 from Rainbirds website

(Photo attached)

After researching and using many different timers over the years this timer is most user friendly and has the most options for ability to save water based on different weather patterns and times of year.

6. Hunter PGV solenoid valve 2in \$92.49 from sprinkler warehouse

(Photo attached)

This valve allows the connection between the timer and the different fields- telling each field when to irrigate.

7. Hunter pump starter relay \$71.65 from drip depot

(Photo attached)

This communicates to the pump to turn on.

8. 3in check valve with strainer \$89.99 from the pond guy- online website

(Photo attached)

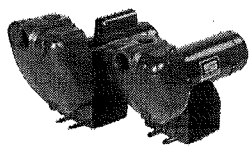
This prevents backflow and allows for flushing the irrigation system.

9. Renting a trencher for one day to bury lines \$130

This machines allows for digging trenches for the wires and PVC.

Thank you so much for considering my application. Water is life and the flowers and the community would greatly benefit from this grant to implement a proper irrigation system.

I certify that I am an Alachua County resident, have an agricultural exemption, and that all information in this grant application is true and correct. I understand that any errors, misrepresentations, or omissions in this application may result in the application not being considered, points reduced, or if discovered after the award, that the grant funds may be reimbursed to Alachua County.



① Irrigation pump

These are some of the fastest priming pumps on the market and are especially suited for lawn sprinkling applications. They feature leak-proof mechanical shaft seats and a friction Lexan impeller.

Model	HP	Volts	Price
DS3HE	1 HP	115/230 1 Phase	\$595.00
DS3HF	1½ HP	115/230 1 Phase	\$765.00
DS3HG	2 HP	115/230 1 Phase	\$1,055.00
DS3HHG	2½ HP	230 1 Phase	\$1,345.00
DHH	3 HP	230 1 Phase	\$2,450.00
DHJ	5 HP	230 1 Phase	\$2,875.00



Learn Shop Repair About

Search entire store here

Home > ESP4ME3 - Indoor/Outdoor 120V Irrigation Controller (LNK WiFi Compatible)

⑤ timer



ESP4ME3 - Indoor/Outdoor 120V Irrigation Controller (LNK WiFi Compatible)

★★★★★ 44 Reviews 1 Question 1 Answer
\$254.23

IN STOCK
SKU#: F55480

Qty: 1 Add to Cart

ADD TO WISH LIST ADD TO COMPARE

- 4 station base capability, expandable up to 22 stations using hot-swappable 3- or 6- station expansion modules (sold separately)
- Comes with power plug and outdoor cabinet for indoor or outdoor installation.
- WiFi Connectivity -- compatible with the new Rain Bird LNK WiFi module (sold separately). Simply plug in the module to access, operate and monitor your irrigation system from any mobile device
- Flow monitoring Use with wired flow sensor (sold separately) to monitor flows, get notifications and prevent water waste from broken pipes and leaks.
- Easy to read, large backlit 3" screen
- 4 individual programs with 6 independent start times per



Chat with Us

Hunter | FGV-201G | PGV In-line

spinklerwarehouse.com/hunter-pgv-inline-angle-valve-with-flow-control-2-in-fpt-pgv-201g?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKAgom_SdBAAMiAwAXE2Cv-m1lBGGYMSXB-KLChRQyAwOSAlQeAwZ...

SprinklerWarehouse
The Do-It-Yourself Sprinkler Store

Search

1 HOUR LEFT FOR **FREE** SAME DAY SHIPPING | \$49 DOLLARS TO GET FREE SHIPPING TODAY!

Account

Hunter PGV Inline / Angle Valve with Flow Control 2 in. FPT | PGV-201G

Secure transaction

SKU: FGV-201G

Free Shipping on Orders over \$50

SALES PRICE	OUR PRICE	YOU SAVE
\$92.49	\$190.95	52%

- 1 +

ADD TO CART

Add To Project Add To Favorites Compare

TRUST GUARD SECURED ACTIVE 06/27/24

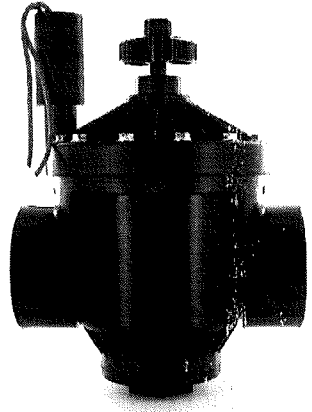
Chat with us

Type here to search

89°F T-storms

2:22 PM 6/27/2024

⑧ solenoid valve



Pump Start Relay

dripdepot.com/pump-start-relay?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKAgom_SdBAAMiAwAXE2Cv-m1lBGGYMSXB-KLChRQyAwOSAlQeAwZ...

\$49 Free Shipping

Ships in 02:36:41

Dripdepot

Search our store...

Shop Our Store

- Irrigation Kits
- Irrigation Supplies
- Controllers
- Drainage
- Electrical
- Fertilizing
- Gardening
- Hose End Timers
- PVC
- Misting
- Pumps
- Lighting
- Backpacking Supplies
- Chicken Supplies
- Clearance

Shop All > Controllers > Accessories

X

Files

Pump Start Relay

Qty: 1

Each: \$71.65

Sold in multiples of 1

SKU: 15502
Brand: Hunter
MPN: PSR22
UPC: 4091160910003

Add To Cart

IN STOCK

Need More?

10 ***** Google Customer Reviews

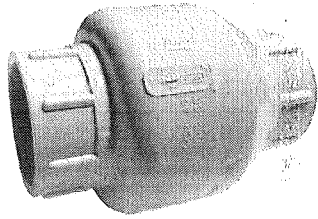
Type here to search

89°F T-storms

2:23 PM 6/27/2024

⑨ starter relay

⑧ check valve



PVC Check Valves - 3" PVC Check Valve

PVC Check Valves

★★★★☆ 4 Reviews

- Swing Check Valve Prevents Backflow
- Corrosion Resistant
- Rated 125 PSI

\$84.99

Select Size
3" PVC Check Valve

490101 3 : 3" PVC Check Valve \$84.99

- 1 +

ADD TO CART



Ask An Expert!

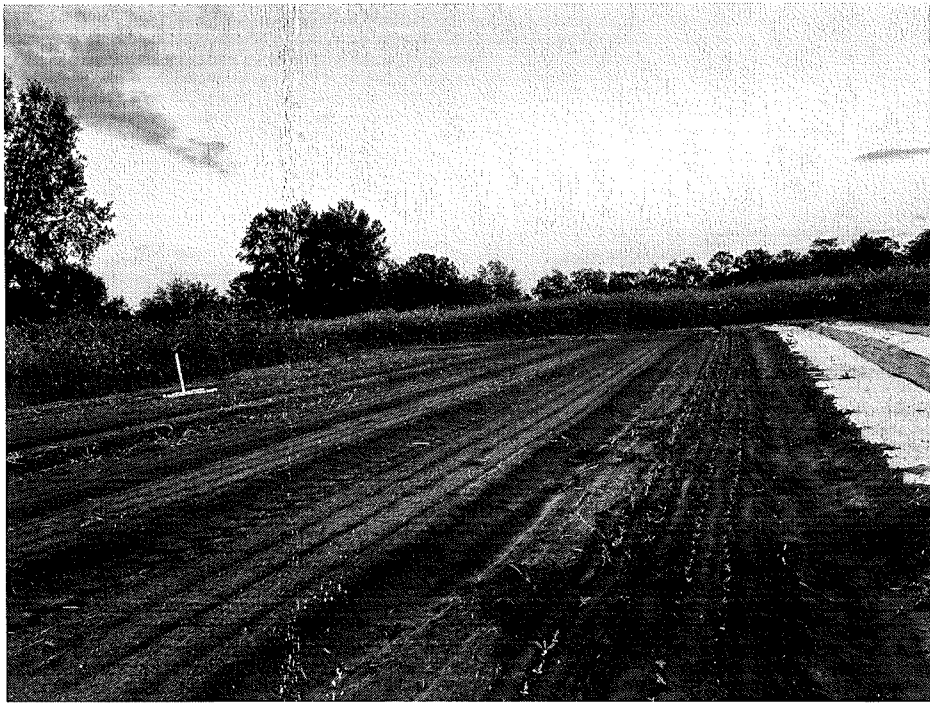


Latest in Gainesville

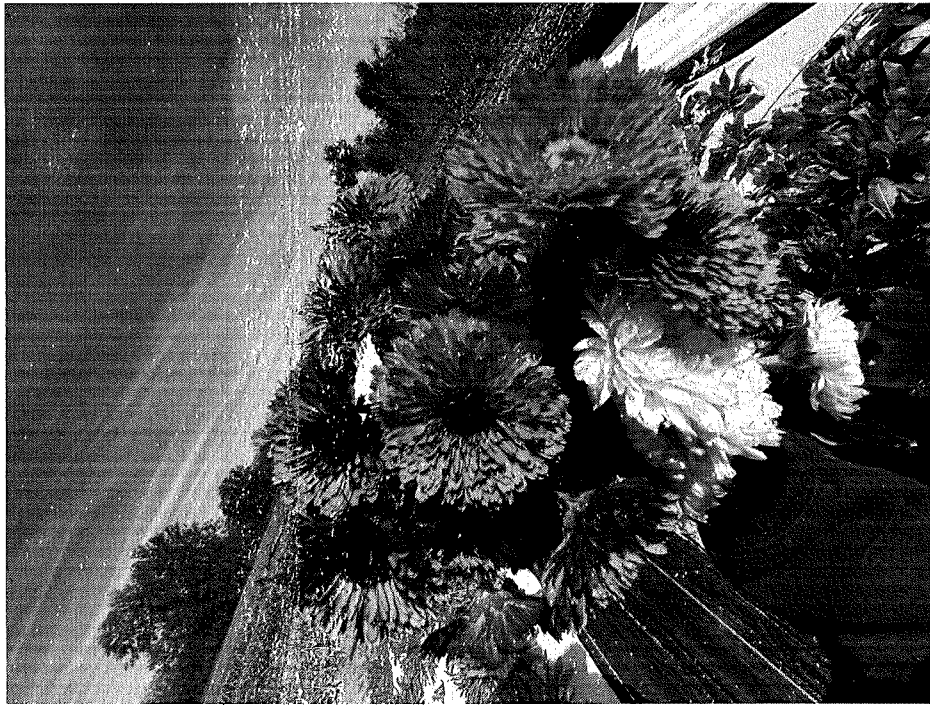
- Explore
- Go
- Saved
- Contribute
- Updates

google maps photo
of farm!

* I apologize for lack of color photos
-didn't have access to color printer!



Flower
farm in Fall
before big
planting!



Beautiful +
bright orange
Chrysanthemum!
This flower is
one of the most
medicinal of
all of the ones
I grow. Tastes
delicious +
makes great
tea!



Stock flower
comes in white,
pinks, purples +
more! This flower
is closely related
to broccoli and
has a sweet
brassica taste to
it!



Other edibles
during peak spring!



Amaranth +
sunflower are
super tall
edible flowers
I grow each year!



Thank you!

Happy Summer!