



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

Baker County Extension Service

1025 W. Macclenny Ave.
Macclenny, FL 32063

Phone: (904) 259-3520

Email: baker@ifas.ufl.edu

Hours: M—F 8:30am to 5:00pm
(Closed Noon to 1:00pm for Lunch)

County Agents

Alicia Lamborn
Horticulture Agent

Shaina Spann
4-H Youth Development Agent

Alicia Halbritter
Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

Dear Extension Friends,

We would like to say thank you to everyone who purchased from our Cards for a Cause Fundraiser and participated in our Master Gardener Plant Sale! Your donations will help us finish the arboretum sidewalk that will eventually lead visitors to a covered teaching pavilion and throughout the gardens. We have big plans to continue developing the gardens for educational purposes, and with your help we will achieve our goals that much sooner!

Sincerely,

Alicia

Alicia Lamborn, County Director
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

Congratulations to:
ASHLEY SHINALL

Our Plant Sale
Gift Basket
Winner!!!!



 <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>

 <http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/bakerco>

 [Baker County Garden Spot](#)
[Baker County 4-H](#)

 Check out our Livestock
Google Site!

Upcoming Programs



4-H & You— April 1st, 6:00pm on Zoom

Join the 4-H and You Crew as we explore hiking along paths and trails with live reports from across Florida! Lace up your walking shoes to learn planning tips, rules of the trail, and essential items for your hike. We will also make a yummy snack to bring with you on the trail. This program will take place on April 1, 2021 from 6:00-7:00PM on ZOOM.

Register here: <https://forms.gle/pn2BuxxwH3EJwaoq8>

Also check out:
Flip My Florida Yard
TV Series

JACKSONVILLE
WCWJ-TV17 (CW)
Saturdays, 4/3 - 6/5
11:30 am

Living on a Few Acres Virtual Lunch & Learn— April 21st, 12-1 PM

Meet with UF/IFAS Extension Baker County Agriculture Agent Alicia Halbritter to learn about homesteading on just a few acres! This workshop will discuss land use planning & design, gardens and livestock, and homesteading 101 tips! Register here: <https://bit.ly/BakerCoHomesteading>



Highlights in Horticulture

By: *Alicia Lamborn,*
Horticulture Agent



April in the Garden

Flowers

- Warmer weather allows for planting all sorts of flowering annuals and perennials. Look for gazanias, strawflowers and ageratum if you desire something a little different.
- Plant bulbs such as blood lily, caladium, canna, and gladiolus this month.



Blood lily

Trees & Shrubs

- If adding trees and shrubs to the landscape this spring, be sure to provide regular irrigation when rainfall is scarce.

Lawns

- Apply fertilizer after new growth has started—usually mid-April in north Florida. If you haven't tested the soil to see what nutrients are needed, you can follow this guide for selecting and applying lawn fertilizer: http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/baker/docs/pdf/horticulture/FertilizingYourNFLawn_002.pdf

Vegetables & Herbs

- Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, lemon balm, chives, oregano, sage, parsley, thyme, and rosemary. See: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs
- Continue planting warm-season vegetables crops. Mulch well to prevent weeds and provide irrigation if rainfall is lacking. See our complete guide to vegetable gardening in Florida: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

Fruits & Nuts

- Remove fruit from newly planted trees to help them get established. This will allow the plant to put energy into root and shoot growth rather than fruit production.
- Thin peaches and nectarines so that fruit are spaced about 6-10 inches apart. Plums should be spaced 3-6 inches apart. Remove the fruit before the pit starts to harden (approx. 1 month after bloom or when fruit is the size of a nickel). This will improve fruit quality and prolong the life of the tree.



Photos from *Thinning Florida Peaches for Larger fruit* <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1324>

Credit: J. Crook, MyGarde nGeek.com

Tips for Florida-Friendly Yards

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) means using low-maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices to have a beautiful landscape or bountiful garden that saves you time, energy, and money.

Calibrate Your Irrigation System: Even an efficient irrigation system can waste water if it's left on for too long. The ideal amount of water to apply to a lawn is 1/2 - 3/4 inch. Calibrating your sprinkler system to deliver 1/2 to 3/4 inch of water instead of 1 inch can save up to 15,000 gallons of water per 1,000 square feet per year. For a 5,000 square foot lawn, this equates to 75,000 gallons saved each year.

Fertilize Appropriately: Look for fertilizers with slow-release nutrients. They should include potassium and little or no phosphorus. For lawns, use a broadcast spreader with a deflector shield. Don't use a drop spreader, which can damage the coatings on slow-release fertilizers, rendering them quick-release. The deflector shield directs fertilizer away from paved

surfaces and water bodies (including ponds). Never fertilize within 10 feet of any water body. Designate a 10-foot maintenance-free zone between your landscape and the riparian zone. After applying fertilizer, water it in with 1/4 inch of water or less. Don't fertilize before a heavy rain. If rain is forecast in the next twenty-four hours, hold off on applying fertilizer. Rain can wash fertilizer off lawns or cause it to leach into groundwater, contributing to pollution.

CALIBRATING IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Follow these steps to determine how much water your irrigation system is applying:

- Set out five to ten flat-bottomed, straight-sided cans (all of equal size). Containers that are three to six inches in diameter, such as cat food or tuna cans, work best for this.
- If you have an in-ground system, place the containers in one zone at a time, scattering the cans randomly throughout the zone. You'll need to repeat this procedure in each zone.
- If you use a hose-end sprinkler to water your turf, place the containers in a straight line from the sprinkler to the edge of the watering pattern. Space the containers evenly.
- If you have a drip irrigation system, place the cans under emitters.
- Turn on sprinklers for fifteen minutes.
- Use a ruler to measure the depth of water in each container. The more precise your measurement, the better your calibration will be. Measurement to the nearest 1/8 inch should be adequate.
- Find the average depth of water collected in the containers by adding up the depths and dividing by the number of containers.
- To determine the irrigation rate in inches per hour, multiply the average depth of water times four (since you ran the water for fifteen minutes).
- Check your system yearly to make sure it's working properly.

Florida's Native Flora & Fauna

By: Alicia Lamborn, Environmental Horticulture Agent

Featuring some of Florida's native flora (plant life) and fauna (animal life) so you can learn to recognize, appreciate, and protect native species. We'll also aim to dispel myths and provide tips for managing conflicts with wildlife.

Resurrection Fern

You've probably seen resurrection fern growing on the branches of live oaks, elms, magnolias and cypress trees. This tiny little fern can do what few plants can — look dead one day and totally alive the next.



Resurrection fern (*Pleopeltis polypodioides*) before rain (top) and after (bottom). Photo credit: UF/IFAS

When the weather is dry, resurrection fern turns gray and shrivels up. But when the rain comes, resurrection fern will spring to life within a matter of hours, turning bright green and unfurling its fronds.

This native fern is considered an epiphytic plant, which is a plant that grows on another plant. It makes its home growing on other plants, but it still photosynthesizes the way other plants

do. It can also be found growing on rocks, bricks, and fallen logs.

A fun garden project to do with kids is to find a dry resurrection fern and mist it with water every hour for a few hours to see how long it takes before the fern turns green again.

FUN FACT: In 1997, the resurrection fern was taken into space aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery to watch its resurrection in zero gravity.

Excerpts from: <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/resurrection-fern.html> and <https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Plants-and-Fungi/Resurrection-Fern>

Glass Lizards

Florida is home to two groups of legless lizards that are often mistaken for snakes—one of which are the glass lizards.

There are four species of glass lizards found in Florida, ranging in size from 15-40 inches long. They are usually tan, brown, or greenish, often with dark length-wise stripes on their backs, and pale yellow-tan bodies.

Glass lizards are legless, and their long tails give them a very snake-like appearance. But unlike snakes, they have moveable eyelids and external ear openings.

Glass lizards have very smooth, shiny scales that are reinforced by bones called 'osteoderms,' making their bodies hard and brittle. As a result, their tails break easily and they are often seen with broken tails in the process of regrowth. Glass lizards also move a bit more stiffly than snakes, and have a long groove down each side of their hard bodies that allows them to expand when they breathe or are full of food, or when females are full of eggs. They can easily be recognized as harmless by their slender heads and lack of a neck.



Eastern Glass Lizard. Photo credit: UF/IFAS

Glass lizards live in wet meadows, grasslands, pine flatwoods, pine scrubs, hardwood hammocks, and other open woods, and are occasionally seen in suburban neighborhoods. They are often found under boards and other debris on the ground, and at least two species spend much of their time burrowed underground.

Excerpts from: <https://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/snakes/leglesslizards.shtml>



County Events 2021

County Events will be virtual this year! To showcase your knowledge and talent of ANY subject you may like. It's always a bonus if entries are related to your 4-H project, but it isn't required.

A website that houses all of the information has been created. We will take your entries, send them to judges and when the judging is finalized we will send out an email with the results.

The website has pointers on prepping for recording speeches or presentations, as well as descriptions of all of the categories that members are eligible to participate in. This is a point opportunity and an easy one that can be done from the comfort of your home. Here is the link to the site: <https://sites.google.com/ufl.edu/bakerco4hevents2021/home>

Please contact Mrs. Shaina if you have any questions or need her to proof your presentation.

****SENIOR MEMBERS****

All blue ribbon eligible entries will move on to the state level. Entries are due April 19th by midnight.

VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITIES

4-H & You– Hiking and Trails! April 1st @ 6pm on Zoom. Register here: <https://forms.gle/H3zQoFG5MX4zZKvf8>

4-H Recipes

Apple Cobbler Dump Cake (“Don’t Mix It!”)

Submitted by: Mrs. Shaina

Ingredients:

- 1 box Yellow Cake Mix
- 2 cans apple pie filling
- 2 Tsp cinnamon
- 1 1/2 sticks butter sliced thin

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F and grease cake pan. Spread apple pie filling across bottom of greased cake pan. Sprinkle cinnamon on top of apples. Next, spread dry cake mix over the top of the pie filling.

****Don't mix it**** Thinly slice 1 1/2 sticks of butter and place evenly across the top of the cake mix. Bake at 350°F for 35-40 minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes. Enjoy! It's even better with vanilla ice cream!



Pre-sale vouchers for a NEW 4-H Specialty Plate now available at your local tag office location.

The voucher can be purchased at any time; you do not have to wait for your renewal period. To purchase you just need your Driver License number. You can also purchase a voucher as a gift from someone with the recipient's DL#.

3,000 vouchers must be sold by the state's deadline of Oct 2022, and once the goal is met the plate will be produced.

100% of the \$25 annual plate fee will support the Florida 4-H Foundation for the following statewide programs: Camping, Legislature, University and competitive event participation. *With administrative processing fees the total voucher cost is ~\$33.*

Barnyard Bulletin

By:
Alicia Halbritter,
Agriculture Agent



Dolomite Lime Versus Calcite Lime

Lime is applied to our soil in order to raise the pH to a desirable level. Did you know there are different types of lime?

Dolomite Lime:

Dolomite lime is derived from calcium carbonate and magnesium carbonate. With the addition of the magnesium carbonate this lime is typically higher in magnesium levels.



Calcite Lime:

Calcite lime is derived from deposits of primarily calcium carbonate. Therefore, calcite lime does not have the additional magnesium levels as seen in dolomite lime.

How do you know which to apply?

Typically Florida soils are high in both calcium and magnesium, therefore it is not necessary to try and adjust the calcium/magnesium ratio or to be concerned with protentional plant deficiencies. You can choose your lime source based on cost as they have the same ability to affect soil acidity (pH). Only lime according to soil test recommendations. This ensures you are applying the correct amount, and if for some reason your soils are deficient in magnesium, you will know that it may be better to utilize dolomite lime.

Soil Testing

In order to accurately fertilize your pastures or crops you should be conducting a soil test. You can receive specific recommendations from the University of Florida at just \$10 a sample. Results will indicate the exact amount of lime, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and micronutrients your soil needs for the plants you intend to grow. Find the submission sheet you need here: <https://soilslab.ifas.ufl.edu/ESTL%20Tests.asp> or visit the extension office to pick up a form and sample bags.



Extension Tidbits

Fresh from Florida Recipe

Eggplant is a Florida crop in season this April! Enjoy this quick but hearty lunch.

Ingredients

- 1 Florida eggplant slices 1/4 inch thick
- 2 Florida tomatoes, sliced
- 1 pound fresh mozzarella, sliced
- Olive oil
- 8 slices rustic bread or rolls
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste



Directions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly drizzle olive oil onto the sliced eggplant and season with salt and pepper. Place the eggplant on a cookie sheet and in the oven. Cook eggplant in the oven for 10 minutes or until golden brown. Remove the eggplant from the oven and turn the oven to broil. Lightly drizzle the bread with olive oil, and toast under the broiler. Remove the bread from the broiler when it is toasted. To assemble the sandwich layer the eggplant, tomato, and mozzarella. Place the sandwich back under the broiler to melt the cheese. Remove sandwich from oven and serve warm.

Recipe from: <https://www.followfreshfromflorida.com/recipes/florida-eggplant-tomato-and-mozzarella-melt>

RAISING BACKYARD CHICKENS FOR EGGS



WHY RAISE BACKYARD CHICKENS?

- Fresh eggs to eat and share
- Fun pastime for youth and adults
- Connect with how food is produced
- Experience for future food business

WILL YOU NEED A ROOSTER?

- Not necessarily. Mature hens will lay eggs on their own. However, you will need a rooster if you'd like to hatch your own eggs.

PLAN AHEAD

- Check your local ordinances
- Be thoughtful of neighbors
- Learn about breeds, nutrition, keeping your birds safe from predators
- Look online for coop plans. Chickens need 3 square feet of floor space per bird



UF IFAS
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

LIMITED POULTRY AND EGG PERMIT

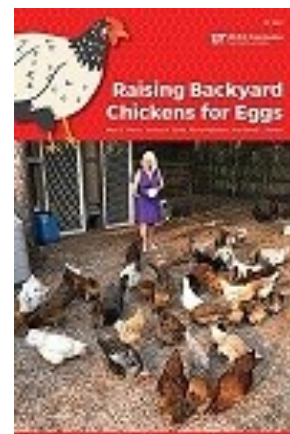
Beginning farmers who want to produce eggs or meat for sale should get a Limited Poultry and Egg Permit.

- Allows for sale of eggs and "dressed poultry" in limited quantities within Florida.
- Allows sale to individuals as well as restaurants and institutions.
- Does not allow wholesale sales.
- To learn more about the Limited Poultry and Egg Permit, visit freshfromflorida.com

For more information, visit edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an239

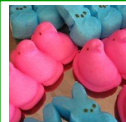
Got Chicks?

Check out the book: *Raising Backyard Chickens for Eggs*



Purchase from the Extension Office or IFAS bookstore: <http://ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu/p-1545-raising-backyard-chickens-for-eggs.aspx>

Or check it out from our local Emily Taber Library!



Hoppy Easter to all our Peeps!

