



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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**FLORIDA NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA:
BEACH SUNFLOWER & GOPHER TORTIOSE**

The UF/IFAS Extension Office is available to help you with your farming, gardening, landscaping, and 4-H youth development needs by providing educational programming, free consultations and information. Contact us at:

UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

1025 W. Macclenny Ave. Macclenny, FL 32063

Phone: (904) 259-3520

Email: baker@ifas.ufl.edu

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



The Peanut Butter Challenge is coming!

Support the farmers and our local food bank by donating jars of peanut butter to the Baker County Extension Office!



Programs & Events

- New! **Butterfly Gardening** (Online Class — Free!) [Register here.](#)
- Aug 25 **Fruit Orchards 101** at UF/IFAS Extension Baker County, 10am-12pm. Learn how to design and care for your home fruit orchard. Class topics include variety selection, choosing your site, planting techniques, soil amendments, pruning/training techniques, plus basic care and maintenance. \$5 Pre-register at the office or online: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fruit-orchards-101-tickets-690347527037?aff=oddttdcreator> For more information, please call (904) 259-3520.
- Sept 8 **Horticultural Tree Grafting 101** at UF/IFAS NFREC-Suwannee Valley Farm, 9am-12pm. Register here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/horticultural-tree-grafting-101-tickets-632932918397?aff=erelexpmlt>
- Online **Growing Blueberries & Blackberries** (Self-Paced Course — Free!) [Register here.](#)
- Online **Selling Backyard Poultry Products** (Self-Paced, Online Course) [Register here.](#)
- Online **Backyard Chicken Class** (Self-Paced, Online Course) [Register here.](#)

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Highlights in Horticulture

By: *Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent*



Summer Fruit Pruning

Peaches/Nectarines/Plums: May - August In the dormant season, major pruning involves maintaining the overall height of the tree canopy as well as maintaining the open center of the canopy which allows light in to stimulate growth of new fruiting wood and improve fruit quality. Lighter pruning for the same reasons can be accomplished during the summer after fruit is harvested. [Click here for videos on peach pruning and more!](#)

Figs: June - July (after fruit harvest) Established plants can be pruned after fruit harvest to eliminate dead or diseased limbs, limbs that cross each other especially if rubbing together, and to remove long slender “water sprouts”. Larger plants can be trimmed back to maintain the bushy shape and make reaching fruit easier.

Blueberries: July – August Established plants can be topped to control height and encourage branching after fruit is harvested. Depending on the size of the bush, the canopy height can be reduced by several inches up to a foot or more. This prevents plants from becoming too tall and will stimulate new growth that will become next year’s crop.

Blackberries: Late Summer to Fall Blackberries produce fruit on one year old canes, known as floricanes. After fruiting, floricanes dry up and die. They should be removed at the ground or crown level as soon as they die. In a healthy blackberry stand, five to six canes per foot of row is ideal after pruning, and blackberries can form a solid hedgerow.

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN August



	North	Central	South
 Easily Survives Transplanting	Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Eggplant, Kale, Peppers, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches	Eggplant, Endive, Peppers, Sugarcane, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches	Eggplant, Peppers, Sugarcane, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches
 Transplant Carefully	Celery, Mustard	Pineapple	Amaranth, Calabaza, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes
 Use Seeds	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Cucumbers, Onions (bunching), Squashes, Turnips	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peas (southern), Squashes	Okra, Pumpkin



Barnyard Bulletin

By:
Alicia Halbritter,
Agriculture Agent



Cool Season Forages for Grazing Livestock

Planting cool season forages can help extend your grazing season for livestock, maintain pasture quality over the winter, and most importantly help prevent overgrazing our perennial warm season grasses.

Planting

You will need to plant your seed in the pastures your livestock graze. You can plant by broadcasting seed or utilizing a grain drill, however broadcasting requires more site preparation (30% disturbance for Bahiagrass pastures) and also dragging after planting to cover the seeds. It is best to plant with a heavier seeding rate if you utilize broadcast methods.



Species/Varieties

There are many species of cool season forages that perform well in north Florida. Prices can vary greatly between the species and the varieties of each, pick those that fit within your budget and still serve your grazing needs. Typically, plantings of ryegrass and clovers will be utilized for livestock, however small grains like rye, oats, or wheat could be incorporated. Ensure you purchase varieties that perform well in Florida, I'd be happy to advise you on which varieties would suit you best.

Timing

You may wonder why you should be thinking about winter forages as early as August, but now is the time! Typically, we plant cool seasons between October and November. So in the next few months you must purchase seed, prepare the pastures for planting, and service equipment. Planting, and the overall success of your winter forages will depend on rainfall, so it's important to watch the weather and plant when rain is expected.



Species	Seeding Rate (lb/A broadcast)	Seeding Depth (in)	Days rest between grazing events
Crimson Clover	20-25	1/4-1/2	10-20
White Clover	3-4	0-1/4	7-15
Red Clover	10-15	1/4-1/2	10-20
Ryegrass	20-30	0-1/2	7-15



Summer is over!

The Meat We Eat Camp

The Meat We Eat Camp went to many places and taught campers food safety basics, grill safety, spice flavors, processed meat taste testing, and they grilled their own lunch!

UF Dairy Research Unit



HK Cattle & Farms



N.FL Research Ctr- Suwannee Valley



Nettles' Sausage



Trader's Hill Farm



Taste Testing & Grilling



4-H Club Meetings & Events

- Cloverbuddies Club – No meeting
- August 22nd – 6pm, Livestock Club, Ag. Center Auditorium
- **September 01 – ENROLL FOR THE NEW 4-H YEAR!!!**
- September 11 – 4pm, Cloverbuddies meeting, 4-H Classroom
- September 26 – 6pm, Livestock Club, Ag. Center Auditorium

Space Explorers Camp

Space Explorers Camp took participants to the MOSH & planetarium, the UF Space Plants Lab, the Lake City Airport, and Kennedy Space Center.

MOSH



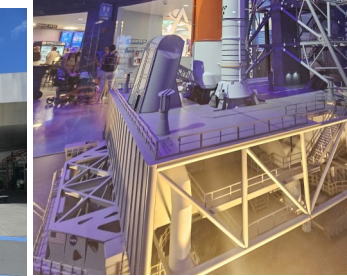
UF Space Plants Lab



Lake City Airport



Kennedy Space Center



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.

Beach Sunflower

The Beach Sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*) is a low-maintenance Florida native groundcover. Although it grows naturally on our coastal sand dunes, it is also well-suited for landscapes provided it has well-drained soil and isn't over-irrigated.

Requiring virtually no care at all, this perennial produces yellow flowers that attract butterflies and bloom continuously in frost-free areas. In areas that freeze, plants die back to the ground and either re-sprout from the roots or reseed in the garden.



Plant in full or partial sun with plants spaced 18-24 inches. Fertilize in one or two applications during the first year to quickly fill an area. After establishment, no fertilizer is needed.

Photo credits: Alicia Lamborn, UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

Gopher Tortoise

Of the five North American tortoise species, the gopher tortoise is the only one found east of the Mississippi River. While they occur in parts of all 67 Florida counties, the species is considered threatened here due to habitat loss.

Averaging 11 inches long and 10 pounds, the gopher tortoise has stumpy hind feet and flattened, shovel-like forelimbs designed for digging burrows of up to 40 feet in length.



A gopher tortoise's life revolves around its burrow, where they spend up to 80% of their time. The burrows also offer shelter for more than 350 other species including burrowing owls, indigo snakes, rabbits, and gopher frogs.

Gopher tortoises graze on herbaceous plants including wiregrass, broadleaf grasses, gopher apple, and legumes. They may drink pooled rainwater, but generally consume an adequate amount of water from forage plants.

Nesting season is from May to July; females typically laying one clutch of 5-9 eggs per year. Sadly, only an estimated 10% of hatchlings survive their first year. Furthermore, sexual maturity doesn't occur for at least a decade, making gopher tortoises very slow to reproduce and vulnerable to extinction.

Can I move a tortoise that is in the road?
According to FWC: yes, you may move the tortoise across the road in the same direction it was headed if it is safe for you to do so. Do not move the tortoise to another location or put the tortoise in a car as this constitutes illegal possession.