



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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Dear Extension Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Melanie Thomas for her 5 years of service to Baker County as Family and Consumer Sciences Agent. She has provided outstanding service and will certainly be missed. Melanie has taken a position in Duval County and we wish her the best of luck in furthering her career. Hopefully, we will be starting the search for a new FCS Agent soon. As always, if we can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Davis
County Extension Director / Ag Agent



Contact Information—Baker County Extension Service

1025 W. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063

Phone: (904) 259-3520, FAX: (904) 259-9034

Email: baker@ifas.ufl.edu Hours: M—F 8:30am to 5:00pm (Closed Noon to 1:00pm for Lunch)

Michael Davis, Ph.D.

Agriculture Agent



Alicia Lamborn

Horticulture Agent



Melanie Thomas

Family & Consumer Sciences Agent



Shaina Bennett

4-H Agent



Highlights in Horticulture

By:

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*Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent*

Fertilizer Tips for a Healthy Lawn, Landscape, and Environment

In North Florida, the time to fertilize established lawns is after the grass comes out of winter dormancy (usually mid to late April) rather than on a specific calendar date. For newly planted lawns, trees and shrubs, fertilizer should be applied 30-60 days after planting to avoid burning new roots with fertilizer.

If you got your soil tested, use your results to plan your fertilization strategy. Your results will tell you if your soil pH needs an adjustment, as well as what ratio of nutrients your fertilizer should have and how much to apply. If you're unsure of what your results mean, please call the Extension office to set up a one-on-one consultation. We can help you understand the results and give you additional information to help you fertilize correctly.

If you didn't have your soil tested, there is still time. Otherwise, we recommend using a 15-0-15, 10-0-10, or similar fertilizer. A general rule of thumb when selecting a lawn fertilizer is to choose a fertilizer containing a 1:1 to 2:1 ratio of nitrogen (N) to potassium (K). This means that the fertilizer contains equal amounts of N (1st number) and K (last number) OR no more than twice as much N as K. Another general rule is to choose a fertilizer with zero phosphorus (2nd number), unless your soil test report recommends adding this nutrient. This is because phosphorus tends to be prevalent in Florida soils and is often responsible for water pollution when over-applied.



How much fertilizer to apply at any one time depends on four things:

1. The amount of total nitrogen in the bag
2. The percentage of slow-release nitrogen in the bag
3. The square footage of your lawn
4. Whether the turf is growing in shade (turf in shade will need less fertilizer)

To learn more about planting and fertilizing, stop by our office for free information, or visit:

Fertilizing Your North Florida Lawn — <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/FertilizationCalendar.html>

Preparing to Plant a Florida Lawn — <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh012>

Establishing Your Florida Lawn — <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh013>

Fertilizer Rates for Lawns and Landscapes —

http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/documents/FertilizerRatesforLawnsandLandscapes_000.pdf

Rain and Fertilizer Don't Mix:

Do we ever receive the exact amount of rain we need, when we need it? Of course not! That's why you should never apply fertilizer before a rain. 1/4 inch of water is all that is needed to wash your fertilizer off the leaf blades or mulch and down to the root zone. When we rely on rain water to do the job, we can easily end up wasting fertilizer and polluting ground water if more than 1/4 inch falls from the sky, or if we receive a heavy downpour resulting in runoff. Use a rain or sprinkler gauge to track irrigation and you'll apply just the right amount of water every time.

Ponds, Lakes, and Rivers: Designate a "maintenance-free zone" of at least 10 feet around bodies of water. Don't mow, fertilize, or apply pesticides in that area, and enhance vegetation with additional plantings that will capture any fertilizers that move from your lawn or landscape when a hard rain occurs, before they can pollute the water. If you don't live on the waterfront, you can still protect it by staying 10 feet away from hard surfaces when applying fertilizer using a rotary spreader (one that throws fertilizer) or 3 feet away when using a drop spreader.



Food Preservation: Freezing Food Safely

Freezing is one of the easiest, most convenient, and fastest methods of preserving foods. The extreme cold temperatures retard the growth of microorganisms and slow down chemical changes that affect quality or cause food to spoil.

The development of enzymes in fruits and vegetables is slowed during freezing but not destroyed. Enzymes must be inactivated or they can cause loss of color, vitamins, and flavor. To inactivate enzymes in vegetables, a process called blanching is done. This is essential to top quality frozen products. Blanching is the exposure of vegetables to boiling water or steam for a brief period of time. The vegetables are then cooled quickly so they do not overcook. Color changes in fruits can be controlled by using chemical compounds such as ascorbic acid (vitamin C). Citric acid, lemon juice or sugar syrup can be used, but these do not prevent browning as effectively as ascorbic acid.

As stated before, microorganisms during freezer storage are slowed down but are not killed. Sufficient numbers are still present to multiply and cause spoilage when the product thaws. Therefore, it is imperative that food is thawed in the refrigerator, microwave oven or under running water. **Never** leave food out on the counter to thaw. *Clostridium botulinum*, the microorganism that causes a dangerous problem in low acid, canned products, does not grow at 0° F. Therefore, freezing provides a safe alternative to pressure canning.

Foods can lose moisture during freezing. This is called freezer burn and the food surface has a grainy, brownish area which becomes tough and dry. Packaging in heavy-weight, moisture-resistant wrap or containers will prevent freezer burn.

Foods That Do Not Freeze Well:

Cabbage	Fried foods
Celery	Icing (made from egg whites)
Cucumbers	Sour cream
Cheese	Macaroni, spaghetti
Cream or custard fillings	rice (cooked)
Egg whites (cooked)	Mayonnaise
Gelatin	Meringue
Fruit jelly	Milk sauces

*Please note that some of these foods may be frozen and consumed but the quality will not be the same when thawed.

A few tips to remember:

- Select products of best quality to freeze.
- Always work under sanitary conditions.
- If fruits and vegetables cannot be frozen immediately, refrigerate them.
- Maintain the temperature of the freezer at 0° F. or lower.
- Label all products and arrange so older products are used first.
- Consult food storage tables for storage times. Times vary widely but twelve months is the maximum time for any product.

In order to ensure proper methods of freezing, be sure to follow USDA guidelines and procedures. Contact your local County Extension Office or USDA at www.usda.gov.

April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 
7	8	9 	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30				

Upcoming Programs are marked with a Program Area Symbol. Please match these symbols with the list on the following page for more information about the program.



4-H



Horticulture

Family &
Consumer Sciences

Agriculture

Upcoming Programs & Events

Programs will be held at the Baker County Extension Office (Agricultural Center) unless otherwise noted.

- April 6 Spring Garden Festival, 9:00am to 2:00pm, Baker County Extension Office.** The 5th Annual Spring Garden Festival will feature gardening exhibits, plants for sale, a garden rummage sale, arboretum tours and scavenger hunt, a tree planting demonstration, and much more! Come out and support the Baker County Extension Horticulture and Master Gardener program, plus the local plant vendors that participate. This event is free and open to the public. For more information visit baker.ifas.ufl.edu or call 259-3520.



- April 9 Tri County Pesticide School and Examinations, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Baker County Extension Service, 1025 W. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL.** This program is designed for persons wishing to take the General Standards (CORE) and Private Applicator restricted pesticide license exams. The program also offers CEUs for those individuals who already have a Restricted License. A total of seven (7) CEUs will be offered, three (3) CORE and four (4) Private Applicator/Ag Row. Please contact the Baker County Extension Service for additional details or to register. The cost per participant is \$5. Study materials for those persons wishing to take the exams are available through the UF/IFAS Bookstore: <http://ifasbooks.ufl.edu>



- April 25 Evening in the Arboretum, 6:00pm to 7:00pm, Baker County Extension Office.** In celebration of National Arbor Day, join us for an evening in the arboretum! We will be hosting tours to teach you about the different species of trees and will even have a tree planting demonstration. Bring the kids for a tree scavenger hunt and turn in the completed activity for a chance to win a 4-H summer camp voucher. Photographers are invited to bring their camera and capture photos to enter in our photo contest (contest details and prize information can be found at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/ArboretumPhotoContest>). This event is free and open to the public and all participants will be entered into a drawing for a free tree.



Master Gardener Volunteer Training— Applications due by July 1st

To help meet the demands of the local community, the Extension Service provides training for volunteers who assist in offering educational information and advice on garden-related topics. Master Gardener Volunteer Training will take place at the Baker County Extension Office in Macclenny on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am - 1pm during a 7 week period of August and September, 2013 (official schedule released next month). The cost of the training is \$50 (\$60 for couples) and payment plans are available. There is no cost for returning Master Gardener Volunteers who completed the training in previous years. Please refer to the updated Baker County Master Gardener application packet for full program details and requirements. For an application packet, visit the Master Gardener page on our website at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu> or stop by our office to pick one up. Please call (904) 259-3520 if you have questions about the training or concerns regarding volunteer requirements after reading the application packet.

4-H Events & Club Meetings for April:

Cloverleaf Cloggers— April 9th and 23rd at 7pm at Keller Intermediate

Cooking Club— Thursday, April 25th at 6pm in Kitchen

Livestock Club— Thursday, April 25th at 6pm in Classroom

Horse Club—TBA—Contact Ms. Shaina

Upcoming 4-H

Events in May:

May 4– District Events, Lake Butler High School, 9 am



Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:

Shaina Bennett,
4-H Extension Agent



Hippity Hoppity Easter's on it's way!



Recently, Baker County 4-H members have been super busy! They have been participating all over North Florida. Youth have been representing Baker County in Jasper, Tallahassee, and right here in Macclenny!

On March 1st, in Jasper, Florida we had four 4-H members take part in a **District STEM Fair**. STEM, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, is the national priority for 4-H. With the nation's increased demand for professionals in science and technology 4-H has made STEM an initiative to reach youth from all backgrounds. All four participants won awards; Cloverbud, Keelie Turk- age division winner, juniors Kenu Turk and Isaac Fletcher both received mad scientist awards, and intermediate, Klara Fletcher won her age division.

Right: pictured L to R, Keelie Turk, Kenu Turk, Klara Fletcher, and Isaac Fletcher.



Below: Over 750 youth participated in 4-H



4-H Day at the Capitol, which took place on March 14th, is an educational event that provides hands-on "learn by doing" experiences for youth. 4-H youth learn about the legislative and government processes and Florida's significant "firsts" in the foundation of the United States as they participate in workshops, tours and observation of our government at work. Two Baker County youth participated and had an excellent time!

Right: Kenu and Keelie Turk visiting the original Florida Supreme Court



The finale of this month was **County Events**. County Events fosters belonging, mastery, and independence in 4-H members. It is an essential part of the 4-H experience. Youth have the opportunity to demonstrate their talents and feel

confident about their expertise in different subject areas. This year six 4-H youth participated in County Events. County Events was a huge success because of the youth that showcased their talents. They all did a great job and qualify for District Events which will be May 4th, at Lake Butler High School. Congratulations to all who participated and good luck at Districts! We would also like to thank our judges who came from all around to make County Events possible!



L to R, top to bottom: Keelie Turk clogging to Elvira. Kenu Turk demonstrating how worms select the soil they like. Kaleb Lewis talking about the kinds of hens that lay eggs. Alex Oakes demonstrating how to kill your plants. Tommy Allbright talking about athletes and concussions. Hannah Wilkerson demonstrating how to make "Dill-licious" pickles.

Birthdays for April

Wishing you a very **Happy Birthday** from the Baker County Extension Office!
April 24- Kaleb Lewis



Us! www.facebook.com/bakerco4h



Did You Know: During the medieval times, a festival of egg throwing was held in church, during which the priest would throw a hard-boiled egg to one of the choirboys. It would then be tossed from one choirboy to the next and whoever held the egg when the clock struck 12 was surely the winner and will retained the egg?!

Looking for community service?

Youth ages 13-18 that would like to earn service hours, please contact Ms. Shaina, at 259-3520.

Spring Weeds in Northeast Florida

Since Spring has arrived in Northeast Florida, you may have noticed many weeds sprouting in your forage area, pasture or hay field. Listed below are four of the most common Spring weeds seen in our area and tips for control. Always remember that if you are using herbicides for weed control to follow the directions on the label. If you have questions about a particular herbicide, please contact our office.

Tropical Soda Apple



Tropical Soda Apple is a rapidly spreading weed that can take over a pasture in as little as a year. Plants are 2-3 feet tall at maturity with broad, pointed-lobed leaves. Fruit from TSA are round and yellow as they mature. GrazonNext HL is effective against emerged plants and will provide some pre-emergent control for seedlings up to 6 months after application. **THERE ARE HAYING AND GRAZING RESTRICTIONS FOR THIS HERBICIDE. MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW THE LABEL.**



Image: John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org

Prickly Pear Cactus



Prickly pear is a common name for several species of cactus. The problem is not wide-spread, but emergence of this plant can devastate a pasture if it is allowed to establish. **MOWING IS INEFFECTIVE AS PADS THAT ARE REMOVED FROM THE PARENT PLANT CAN ESTABLISH ROOTS AND FORM NEW COLONIES.** Control of this plant is achieved with a mixture of Remedy Ultra (20%) and basal oil (80%). This mixture is applied as a spot treatment directly to the pads. Note that grass in the area will show some burn, but can recover. Control is typically slow and can take up to one year.



Dogfennel



Dogfennel is an aggressive native plant that can be a problem in un-improved or overgrazed pastures. The leaves of the plant contain small amounts of the toxin tremitol, which can cause dehydration in livestock. Seeds typically sprout and grow when soil temperatures reach 65°F. Control of dogfennel can be achieved by two herbicides: 1) Weedmaster—apply when plants reach 12-18 inches in height; this herbicide is most effective when plants are transitioning from winter dormancy, 2) Pasturegard HL—use this herbicide if plants have reached heights of 40 inches or more.



Image: John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org

Image: John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org

Florida Pusley



Florida Pusley plants typically grow creeping along the ground and have hairy stems that can grow up to 30 inches in length. Leaves typically have a rough upper and lower surface. The plant has small, white flowers that cluster at the ends of the stems. Control of this weed can be achieved using GrazonNext HL by itself or in combination with Pasturegard HL.



Image: Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Image: Richard Old, XID Services, Inc., Bugwood.org

*The use of trade names is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. It is not a guarantee of warranty of the products names and does not signify they are approved to the exclusion of others of suitable comparison.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Extension programs are open to all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, handicap, or national origin. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in any activity, should contact the Baker County Cooperative Extension Service at 1025 West Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063 or telephone (904) 259-3520 no later than five (5) days prior to the event. Hearing impaired persons can access the foregoing telephone by contacting the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

FINAL REQUEST

If you would like to remain on the **Baker Bulletin** mailing list in 2013, please complete the form below and mail it or bring it to our office. Individual program newsletters, such as Horticulture and FCS will continue to be produced individually on an electronic basis. You can renew any newsletter subscription by visiting our website at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

PHONE: _____ **RACE** _____ **GENDER** _____

Please list your email below if you prefer to receive the newsletter by email.

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Macclenny, FL 32063