



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,

Please see an important message regarding COVID-19 and Extension activities below. I would encourage you take this situation seriously and use the resources provided for information and assistance in dealing with this unfortunate event. Please note that our office is currently closed to the public, but we will continue to answer questions and provide information by phone or email. If there is something we can help you with, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Alicia Lamborn
County Director / Horticulture Agent
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

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

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

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

Search "Baker County 4-H" in your app store

COVID-19 UPDATES

DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK, ALL IN-PERSON CLASSES, PROGRAMS, AND MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

As you know, we have been closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation for the past few weeks. While we want to disrupt our programs as little as possible, we do need to keep the health and safety of our families, volunteers, and YOU our priority. With that in mind, and in line with the direction of the University of Florida, all in-person gatherings of individuals are postponed through at least May 15th. This unfortunately includes 4-H club meetings, Extension classes, and our Spring Garden Festival. For the latest updates, please follow our Facebook pages or visit our website.

Resources on the following topics are located here: <https://ifas.ufl.edu/covid19-updates/resources/>

Preventative Measures — Staying Healthy at Home (recipes) — Work & Finances — Managing Stress Resources for Agricultural & Food Service Industries

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information, and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions, or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating. 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 ten (10) 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).

Highlights in Horticulture

By: *Alicia Lamborn,*
Horticulture Agent



April Gardening Tips

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.

Trees & Shrubs

- If adding trees and shrubs to the landscape this spring, be sure to follow the planting and care guide provided in the next article to ensure proper establishment.

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/FertilizingYourNFLLawm_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 vegetable 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

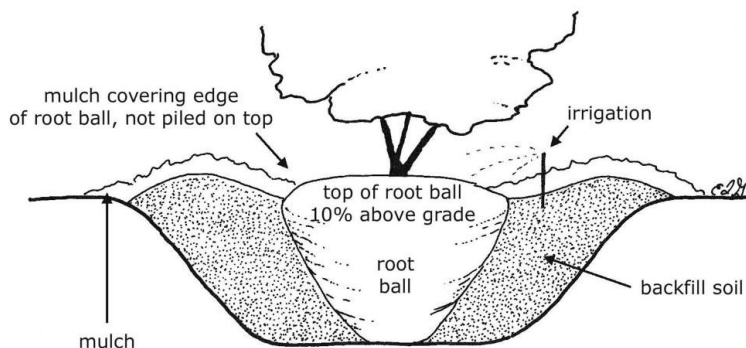
Fruits & Nuts

- 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.

Spring Planting & Care Guide for Trees and Shrubs

Planting: When planting trees and shrubs, locate the top-most root by removing excess soil from the top of the root ball and cut any circling roots. Dig your hole 2-3 times as wide as the root ball, but shallower than the height of the root ball so that a small portion sits above grade. This will allow roots to easily grow into the loosened surrounding soil but will also ensure that the plant is not set too deep (which can cause problems later). In poorly drained soils, position the top of the root ball 10% or more above the surrounding landscape soil.

Mulch: Apply a 3-inch mulch layer around the plant to discour-



age weeds and retain moisture, with only a thin layer over the root ball.

Fertilizer: It is best to wait 4-6 weeks before applying any fertilizer. Too much soluble nitrogen can burn the roots of newly installed trees and shrubs, causing damage or even death.

Irrigation: Supplying water in the correct quantity and frequency is important for establishment. Always apply water to the root ball and not the surrounding soil. For trees, apply 1.5 to 3 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter. For 3-gallon shrubs, apply only 1 gallon of water each time you water. Check your hose's flow rate by timing how long it takes to fill a one-gallon watering can so you'll know exactly how much water you are applying. If the soil feels moist, you can probably skip a day or two without harming your plant. In poorly-drained soils, irrigate less frequently.

Watering Schedule for Newly Planted Trees & Shrubs

Trunk Diameter	Irrigation Schedule for Vigor	Irrigation Schedule for Survival	Establishment Period
Trees, < 2 inches	Daily for 2 weeks, every other day for 2 months, then weekly until established	Twice per week for 2-3 months	4-8 months
Trees, 2-4 inches	Daily for 1 month, every other day for 3 months, then weekly until established	Twice per week for 3-4 months	8-15 months
Trees, > 4 inches	Daily for 6 weeks, every other day for 5 months, then weekly until established	Twice per week for 4-5 months	+15 months
Shrubs, 3-gallon	Every 2-4 days until established	Every 8 days	4-7 months

Highlights in Horticulture continued...

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month



Meet Pat Collier Baker County Master Gardener

This year marks the 41st year of the Master Gardener Volunteer Program in Florida. Additionally, April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and we are highlighting the memories of a long-serving volunteer. Thank you to all the Master Gardener Volunteers who

serve throughout Florida, whether you've been serving a few days or a few decades!

Pat Collier has been a Master Gardener Volunteer in Baker County for 15 years (since November 2004). The first project she worked on saw her supervising prisoners as they planted crepe myrtles along the entryway to the then-newly opened Wal-Mart Distribution Center located in County Business Park. Pat remembers this project vividly, thanks to it being a "very cold, blustery January day."

Pat recalls assisting the county forester with Arbor Day plantings at the local elementary and middle schools. "The kids were so much fun to watch taking turns!"

She also speaks highly of the fun had judging a strawberry competition at the Bradford County Fair, saying, "There's only one way to judge a strawberry and we get to taste the best of the best!"

Beyond her local garden club, Pat also enjoys following NASCAR and reading historical fiction like works from James Michener. She fondly remembers attending the EPCOT International Flower and Garden Festival and working the UF/IFAS Master Gardener Volunteer information booth. Additionally, she relates that some of her best memories are "the personal contacts and new friends, all brought together by a kindred spirit of gardening."

—Adapted from article published in the April 2019 edition of *The Neighborhood Gardener*

<https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/newsletter/2019/more/pat-collier.html>

Spanish Moss—should it stay or should it go?

Each year, I get several inquiries about Spanish moss. Is it harming my tree? What can I use to kill it? While it may become unsightly in certain situations, consider the following before deciding to keep or remove your Spanish moss:

- 1) **Did you know?** At one time, there were 35 moss-processing plants in Florida that collected moss to stuff car cushions and upholstery. Today, it is collected and used by the craft and floral trade. Despite its common name, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) is not actually a moss, but a member of the Bromeliad family.
- 2) **Spanish moss is harmless.** It prefers high light and will thrive on weak or dead trees that have lost their leaves, but it is not parasitic. While Spanish moss may speed the decline of failing trees by shading leaves and intercepting light needed for photosynthesis, its presence is not the cause of the tree's decline. Usually, sick or dead host trees are troubled by conditions like soil compaction, altered drainage, disease, drought or simply old age. If your trees are healthy, the Spanish moss is of no concern. Even "heavy" amounts contribute an insignificant amount of weight and is almost never a factor in broken branches.
- 3) **Spanish moss in trees rarely harbors chiggers/reddbugs.** The natural habitat of these biting insects is mostly low, damp areas with heavy natural vegetation. Fallen moss—and any plant material on or near the ground—may contain chiggers, but hanging moss rarely harbors them.
- 4) **Many animals use Spanish moss for protection.** Many insects and other invertebrates hide and breed in the moss. Two species of bats use garlands of Spanish moss as day-time resting sites. Zebra longwing butterflies roost in it at night. Several species of birds use strands of moss to build their nests.
- 5) **Removal is expensive.** Based on tree size, hiring a company is usually necessary. Mechanical removal is the most efficient way to remove the moss and avoid harmful effects of pesticides. Spraying the moss with a copper herbicide will kill it, but there are drawbacks to using a chemical: you risk yourself to chemical exposure; you risk causing damage to the young growth on oak trees; and killing the moss doesn't make it fall from the tree (which reportedly takes up to a year). Consult with an ISA Certified Arborist—these professionals can assess tree health to determine if removal is justified.



Article includes excerpts from *Spanish Moss, Ball Moss, and Lichens - Harmless Epiphytes*: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep485>

Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:
*Shaina
Spann,
4-H Agent*



4-H Updates

I have been looking into ways we can still have our competitive events. Senior members (14+ as of 09/01/2019) will be eligible to move on to State. Below is a list of options for participation:

- Those participating in demonstrations, illustrated talks, public speaking, photography, graphic design, or share-the-fun should submit their entries digitally on Dropbox. **Videos should be saved as an MP4.**
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hcogw5c7g1o977n/AADjMpM-WJJ3DnQvB-LIFyx-a?dl=0>
- Share-The-Fun (talent) participants can submit a family (not by age group) or individual videos. Groups SHOULD NOT get together to film their submissions.
- Demonstrations, illustrated talks, and public speaking can be a team (2 presenters) Note: submissions with members age 14+ will be split if they continue on to the next level.

These videos will be sent to judges and judged with a rubric.

Submissions for ALL events are due to the dropbox by April 20th by midnight.

Be sure to name your file: lastname firstname_category_item name

For example, if you were submitting a post card it would be: spann shaina_graphicdesign_postcard

Categories linked to explanations:

- [Demonstration or Illustrated Talk](#)– (4 points) demonstrate how to do something or talk about a subject. Juniors & Intermediates: 3-12 minutes and Seniors: 5-12 minutes.
- [Photography](#)– (1 point) uploaded into dropbox
- [Fashion Revue](#)– (1 point) model a constructed/purchased outfit.
- [Graphic Design](#)– (2 points) create a 4-H themed item.
- [Public Speaking/Horse Public Speaking](#)– (4 points) a 4-H or horse related speech. Juniors & Intermediates 3-7 minutes and Seniors 5-7 minutes Horse: Juniors & Intermediates 3-7 minutes and Seniors 8-10 minutes.
- [Share-The-Fun](#) (talent) – (3 points) showcase your talent! Singing, dancing, play an instrument.



Remember that points are part of the commitment to participating in a livestock project!

Members 8+ Need total of 12 points- CHANGED FOR 2019-2020 YEAR ONLY

Members 5-7 still need 10 points.

75% of meetings= 4 points. Members will get these points minus months we are unable to meet (TBD)

Project Report= 5 points. No change for 2020.

4-H Club Meetings & Events

Contact your club leader for details. No club meetings or in-person activities until at least May 15th.

4-H Livestock Animal Project Participants

Commitment Forms are available from our website and should be uploaded to the Dropbox by May 15th. Link to Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7cmms86ngndimzi/AAAmj-RihM4xwbVrVIR9Uelta?dl=0>

Members who are new to livestock projects need to watch the 4-H & Animal Orientation Video AND take the quiz located below the video by May 15th:

<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker/4-h-youth-development/4-h-youth/4-h-enrollment/4-h-current-members/>

Take this quiz: <https://forms.gle/JMEjNxSjJGnkDms7> by May 15th

Barnyard Bulletin

By:
Alicia Halbritter,
Agriculture Agent



Eco-Questrians: Equestrians Supporting the Ecosystem

Do you enjoy trail riding? You could be helping restore native plant populations that support wildlife by doing one simple task: reporting invasive plant species you find.

Iphone users can download the I'veGot1 app which allows users to report sightings of invasive species wherever you are! Public lands are highly vulnerable to invasion of exotic plant species and reporting sightings can help managers control populations quickly and efficiently.

Unfortunately, land managers can't be everywhere to see these plants, but as you're trail riding you can play a big role in helping control invasive species. Here are a few you can learn before you start trail riding this spring!



Lantana
(Yellow
Flowers
are native)



Showy
Crotonia
(Rattlebox)



Coral
Ardisia
(small
shrub)



Chinese
Tallow
(Popcorn
Tree)

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT: USDA Implements Immediate Measures to Help Rural Residents, Businesses and Communities Affected by COVID-19

USDA Rural Development has taken a number of immediate actions to help rural residents, businesses and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Rural Development will keep customers, partners, and stakeholders continuously updated as more actions are taken to better serve rural America.

[Read the full announcement](#) to learn more about the opportunities USDA Rural Development is implementing to provide immediate relief to our customers, partners, and stakeholders.

Barnyard Bulletin continued...

Pond Slime: How to Prevent & Control it This Summer!



Have you ever looked out at your pond and noticed a green film across the top? This film could be plants (like duckweed), pollen sheen, or algae. Although pond “slime” is not always a bad thing, it can interrupt the use of the pond such as for boating, fishing, or swimming.

Algae blooms are natural and generally occur in warm, nutrient rich waters. Although these are not always a negative aspect of the pond a lot of owners do not like how it looks and would like to rid their pond of algae. One of the easiest and most cost effective ways of treating algae is with the use of copper sulfate. If you are having an issue with algae in ponds, give me a call to determine the amount of copper sulfate you will need after a water sample is tested.

If you are having issues with a thick pollen sheen the best thing for the pond is movement. Either an air bubbler, fountain, or some type of water feature needs to be added to the pond. Moving the surface of the water can help force pollen to pond edges or mix into the pond and eliminate the sheen.



Having issues with plants covering the surface of your pond? Some plants can be beneficial for aquatic life but can also take over the surface of the pond. Herbicides can be used to control plant life, as well as mechanical removal of the plants. To identify the plants in your pond and get personal recommendations on control, call the Extension Office at 259-3520 or email aliciah1221@ufl.edu

UF/IFAS EXTENSION SOIL TESTING LAB UPDATE

Due to limited staffing, the UF/IFAS Soil Testing Lab is prioritizing samples from growers and farmers. Homeowners sending landscape samples may experience a delay in receiving results.

Download soil test forms here: <https://soilslab.ifas.ufl.edu/ESTL%20Tests.asp>

Mail: form, soil (in ziplock bag), and payment to address on form.

Please call our office at 259-3520 if you have questions regarding your soil test.