



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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Dear Extension Friends,

I know that it may not seem like it with all of the cold weather that we have had, but Spring is just around the corner. We have many events coming up in the next couple of months that will help you out with your forage, pasture and gardening needs. Spring also brings with it the threat of fires, so be on the lookout for possible issues that could contribute to wildfires. As always, if we can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Davis
County Extension Director / Ag Agent
Baker County Extension Service



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.

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Agriculture Agent



Alicia Lamborn

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Position Vacant

Family & Consumer
Sciences Agent



Shaina Bennett

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4-H Agent



Highlights in Horticulture

By:

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Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent

Berry Beautiful

When you think of plants with beautiful berries, you probably think of Hollies, but there are other nice, ornamental plants that put on a show with their berries too!

Hollies are nice, low-maintenance plants for Florida, many of which have attractive berries that feed birds and brighten our fall and winter days. There are also many species to choose from, with a variety of sizes, shapes and textures to please the eye. Here are a few interesting varieties:

Ilex opaca – American Holly is a medium-large, conical to columnar tree that slowly reaches 25-50 feet tall. This tree provides the classic holly look with spiny green leaves and clusters of red berries. Yellow-fruiting cultivars ('Calloway' and 'Canary') are also available.

Ilex cassine — Dahoon Holly is a medium sized tree, reaching 40 feet tall, although typically 20-30 feet with an 8 to 15 foot crown. Glossy oblong leaves have margins that are either smooth or have several tiny teeth near the tip. Bright red berries ripen in late fall and persist through winter. Native to swamps and low hammocks, this tree is perfect for landscapes with poor drainage.

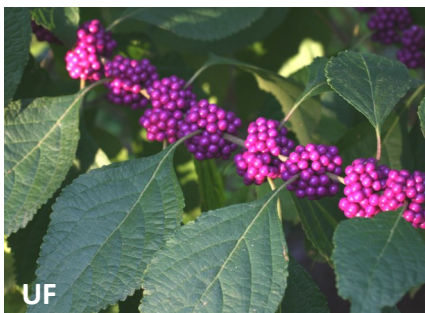


Ilex x attenuata 'East Palatka' – East Palatka Holly is a medium sized tree that grows 30 feet. It has a pyramidal shape, bright red berries, and rounded green leaves with just one spine at the tip.

Ilex vomitoria 'Pendula' - Weeping Yaupon holly is a small, upright tree with a nice weeping habit that grows 15 feet tall. It has small gray green leaves that lack spines, and red berries. These trees are great for creating a screen and for trimming into attractive topiaries.

Other plants with beautiful berries include:

Cretagus marshallii – Parsley Hawthorn (also called Parsley Haw) gets its name from its parsley shaped leaves, giving it quite a delicate, ornamental look in the landscape. It is a small tree, growing to 20 feet tall, with pretty white flowers containing red and white stamens (shown right). The flowers grow in clusters on hairy stalks and bloom in the spring, followed by bright red-orange berries that ripen in fall and persist until winter.



Callicarpa americana – American Beautyberry is a fast growing, native shrub having a loose shape and reaching 3-8 feet tall and wide. The branches form almost a weeping habit as they grow older. Fuzzy, coarse light green leaves provide a nice backdrop for the small lavender-pink flowers that bloom from June to August. A profusion of showy, clustered, purple berries (shown left) follow in fall, and if not completely devoured by birds, will persist on the woody stems for several weeks after the leaves drop. *Callicarpus americana* var. *lactea* has white berries and attractive foliage. The cultivar 'Russell Montgomery' has especially nice white berries.

Join Us On Facebook!

UF/IFAS Extension Baker County Garden Spot

Like us on Facebook and stay connected to the Baker County Extension Office!

You'll receive weekly gardening tips, timely reminders on what to do in your garden, plus notices on upcoming classes, workshops and events!

You'll also be able to comment on articles, ask questions, and test your knowledge with featured quiz questions!



<https://www.facebook.com/UFIFASBakerCountyGardenSpot>














Upcoming Horticulture Programs

- Mar. 14** **Grow Your Own Gourmet Oyster Mushrooms**, 10:00am to 12:00pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL. Join us for a presentation and demonstration on how to grow your own mushrooms for a great nutritional food option. Pre-order your take-home mushroom starter kit today for \$15 (while supplies last) or call to pre-register and join the class for free.
- Mar. 26** **Hydroponic Workshop**, 9:00am to 3:30pm, UF/IFAS Suwannee Valley Research Center, Live Oak, FL. Save the date—workshop and registration details coming soon to our website!
- Apr. 5** **Spring Garden Festival**, 9:00am to 2:00pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL. Join us for the 6th Annual Spring Garden Festival sponsored by the UF/IFAS Baker County Extension Office and Master Gardener Volunteers! We'll have a variety of plant vendors for all your planting needs, gardening exhibits, and a garden rummage sale. While you're here you can also visit the Arboretum (garden of trees), purchase tickets and preview plant auction items for the 4-H Auction that evening (dinner @ 6pm, auction @ 7pm), and enter to win auction tickets!
- Apr. 22** **Earth Day in the Arboretum**, 6:00pm to 7:00pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL. Celebrate Earth Day with a guided tour of Baker County's Arboretum (garden of trees) and learn which unique tree species might be a good fit for your landscape. We'll also have a tree planting demonstration, tree give-away and scavenger hunts for youth to earn a 4-H summer day camp voucher!



February 2014

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	

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.

- Feb. 6** **Beginner Backyard Chicken Workshop**, 4:00pm to 6:00pm, Nassau County Extension Satellite Office, 86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee, FL 32097. This workshop is for owners and enthusiasts who plan on raising chickens. Topics will include: 1) Feeding and Nutrition, 2) Backyard Chicken Management and 3) Breed Selection. Registration is \$5 per person. Please contact Amanda Burnett at the Nassau County Extension Office (904-879-1019 or mandab@ufl.edu) to register.
- Feb. 8** **Becoming a Hobby Beekeeper Short Course**, 9:00am to 4:00pm, UF | IFAS Alachua County Extension Service, 2800 NE 39th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32609-2658. Registration is \$15 per person. Please contact 352-337-6209 to pre-register or 352-955-2402 for more information.
- Feb. 11** **Baker County Forage Update**, 5:45pm to 8:30pm, Baker County Extension Service, Macclenny, FL. This program is for producers with forage areas. Topics will include: 1) Maximizing Forage Quality, 2) General Forage Disease Management, 3) Pesticide Use in Forages and 4) General Forage Update. Registration is \$10 per person. The registration deadline is February 7, 2014. Contact the Baker County Extension Service to register or for additional details.
- Feb. 13** **'Sweet as Honey' Florida Gateway Bee Club**, 7:00pm to 9:00pm, Suwannee Valley Agricultural Center, 8202 CR 417, Live Oak, FL. For additional information email Alan Stefanik at beemail@windstream.net or visit http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/events_calendar.html.
- Feb. 17** **Union County Poultry Production Workshop**, 5:00pm to 6:00pm, Union County Extension Office. This workshop is for small production poultry owners and enthusiasts. Topics will include: 1) General Management, 2) Feeding and Nutrition, and 3) Breed Selection. Contact the Union County Extension Office (386-496-2321) for additional information and to register.
- Feb. 18** **24th Annual Tri-County Pesticide Update**, 5:00pm to 9:00pm, Lake Butler Community Center, Lake Butler, FL. This program is for restricted pesticide license holders and includes information on the CORE and Private Applicator/Ag Row sections of the Pesticide Laws. A total of 4 CEUs have been applied for (2 CORE + 2 Private App./Ag Row). Registration is \$10 per person and is due by February 11 (late registration is \$15 per person). Contact the Union County Extension Office (386-496-2321) to register or for additional details.



4-H Club Meetings & Events:

All County 4-H Club — Tuesday, February 18, 6:00pm, 4-H Classroom

Livestock Club — Thursday, February 27, 6:00pm, 4-H Classroom

Cloverleaf Cloggers — Mondays, 7:00pm, Fabulous Foot Works

Additional Upcoming 4-H Events

Mar 07— County Events Registration due by 5pm

Mar 14— STEM Fair, Live Oak, FL

Mar 15— Family Day at the Farm, Alachua County 9am-2pm

Mar 22— County Events, 8:30am, Auditorium

Mar 28— State Horse Judging Contest

Mar 28— State Forest Ecology Contest

Mar 28— State Land Judging Contest

April 05— 4-H Benefit Auction, Auditorium



Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:

Shaina Bennett,
4-H Extension Agent



Clover Points Are Here!

The Clover Points System has been created to encourage more participation as well as make all of the opportunities that 4-H has to offer available to youth. Clover points help to get youth involved and they have a chance to win a prize! For example: you get one point for attending a club meeting, 5 points for helping with the 4-H kick-off, 5 points for participation in county events, and so on. The person with the most points after the fair wins the grand prize, which can change from year to year. In addition to attending events, 4-H project books and record books (Year End Project) contribute to the final count of Clover Points earned. This year the overall winner gets their choice of a \$50 gift card! The rules, forms, and point sheets are available on the Baker County Website.

Camp Counselors for Summer 2014

The time has come to plan for summer already! If you are at least 14 years old and are interested in going to Camp Cherry Lake here is some new information.

Counselors must:



- Be interviewed
- Go through DCF 435 Screening and fingerprinting
- Have at least 6 hours of training
- Pay a non-refundable deposit of \$40 up front, that will later go towards camp.

These changes come from the Florida Law Statutes Chapter 435. It is mandated that all youth counselors 14+ are to be screened. Application forms are available at the extension office or online at our website. The initial Parent/Guardian meeting is scheduled for March 3rd at 6:30 pm. Please contact Ms. Shaina if you have any questions or concerns.

Events:

- Feb 07– Intermediate Teen Health Summit Reg. Due
- Feb 08– State Fair Livestock & Horse Judging Contests
- Feb 14– 3rd Executive Board Registration Due
- Feb 21-23– Int. Teen Health Summit, Camp Ocala
- Feb 24– District Council Mtg, 4-H Classroom 6pm
- Feb 28-Mar 02– 3rd Executive Board, Camp Ocala
- Mar 07– County Events Registration due by 5pm
- Mar 14– STEM Fair, Live Oak, FL
- Mar 15– Family Day at the Farm, Alachua County 9am-2pm
- Mar 22– County Events, 8:30am, Auditorium
- Mar 28– State Horse Judging Contest
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- Mar 28– State Land Judging Contest
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4-H Birthdays for February:

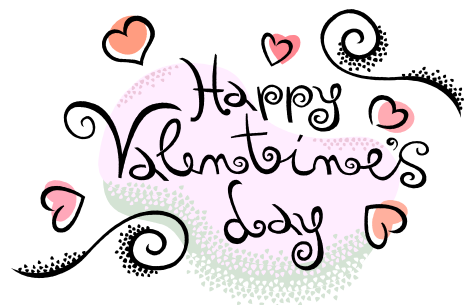
Wishing all of you a very **happy birthday** from the Baker County Extension Office!

- Feb 02– Mr. Ed McCreary
- Feb 05– Evan Dixon
- Feb 10– Keelie Turk
- Feb 13– Ms. BJ Wilkerson
- Feb 14– Ms. Shaina Bennett
- Feb 19– Kyra Davis



Us! www.facebook.com/bakerco4h

Did You Know: Valentine's Day was first introduced to Japan in 1936 and has become widely popular. However, because of a translation error made by a chocolate company, only women buy Valentine chocolates for their spouses, boyfriends, or friends.



Spring Weeds in Northeast Florida

Even though it doesn't feel like it, Spring will be here before you know it; and an increase in temperature will cause an increase in weeds in your hay or forage area. 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 (TSA) 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: Richard Old, XID Services, Inc., Bugwood.org

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

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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).

SECOND REQUEST

If you would like to remain on the **Baker Bulletin** mailing list in 2014, please complete the form below and mail it or bring it to our office. The gardening newsletter, *Highlights in Horticulture*, will continue to be produced individually and distributed electronically through email. You may also renew any newsletter subscription by visiting our website at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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

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

I would like to receive *The Baker Bulletin* by email.

I would like to receive *Highlights in Horticulture* by email.

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

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1025 W. Macclenny Ave.
Macclenny, FL 32063