



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Horticulture	2
Announcements	3
Calendar	4
Upcoming Events	5
4-H	6
Agriculture	7
Notices	8

Dear Extension Friends,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday and we are looking forward to a prosperous New Year. We will be offering many programs throughout the year, so please keep an eye on the Calendar and Upcoming Programs sections for programming that may be of interest. It is also time to renew subscriptions for our newsletters. Please see page 3 or visit us online to renew your subscription. 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.
michael.davis@ufl.edu
Agriculture Agent

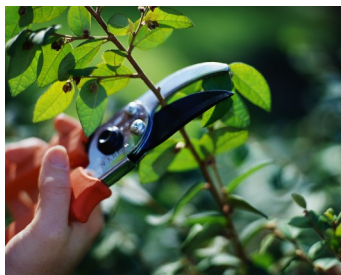
Alicia Lamborn
alamborn@ufl.edu
Horticulture Agent

Shaina Bennett
slbennett@ufl.edu
4-H Agent



Winter Landscape Pruning + How To Disinfect Pruning Tools

Pruning of landscape trees and shrubs can begin this month and continue through February while plants are dormant. Improve tree health by removing dead and diseased limbs. Improve tree structure by removing and/or reducing damaged or rubbing limbs and limbs with included bark. If severe pruning is needed, it should be carried out over several years. **See:** *Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg087>)



For crape myrtles, remove seed pods, crossing branches and small twiggy growth to improve appearance and form of the plant, if desired. Hard pruning, however, is not required. **See:** *Crapemyrtle Pruning* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep399>)

Avoid pruning spring flowering plants such as azalea, camellia, redbud, fringetree, dogwood, forsythia, magnolia, banana shrub, mockorange, spirea, and indian hawthorn unless you don't mind reduced flowering.

Avoid transferring diseases by disinfecting your equipment after each use. Tools should be soaked for at least 5 minutes (or as directed on the product label) and rinsed with clean water or allowed to air dry before use. A longer soaking period may be needed for pruning tool surfaces that are not smooth. If you are pruning a diseased plant, disinfect between each cut. You can use an extra pair while the other is soaking. **See:** <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/documents/DisinfectingPruningTools.pdf>

Available Disinfecting Products:

Household bleach (ex: Clorox): 25% solution
Pine oil cleaner (ex. Pine-Sol): 25% solution
Rubbing alcohol (70% isopropyl): 50% solution
Denatured ethanol (95%): 50% solution
Trisodium phosphate (Na₃PO₄): 10% solution
Quaternary ammonium salts: use as directed on label
Household Disinfectants (Lysol, etc.): full strength

Plant of the Month: Tea Olive

Tea olive (*Osmanthus fragrans*) is a large evergreen shrub prized for its sweet smelling flowers that can perfume a large area of the landscape from October through March. This tough plant is long-lived and capable of reaching 20 to 25 feet in height and width but is most often seen at 10 to 12 feet high with an 8-foot-spread. Some cultivars are even smaller in size. This makes it versatile in the landscape, serving as a nice specimen plant, hedge, screen, or backdrop for other plants.

While not native to North America, it does make a nice addition to the Florida-Friendly Landscape with its sometimes showy flowers and lustrous, medium-green leaves that have paler undersides. Flowers of the species type are creamy white, while improved cultivars offer yellow or orange flowers (*Osmanthus fragrans* 'Butter Yellow', *O. fragrans* 'Apricot Gold', and *O. fragrans* v. *aurantiacus*).

Tea olive should be grown in full sun or partial shade in well-drained soil. Plants are fairly drought tolerant once established but will perform their best with ample moisture. Because of its natural columnar shape, tea olive requires only minimal pruning, though gardeners may choose to prune the plant in order to encourage branching or prune into a small tree if space is limited. Apply a complete fertilizer in early spring, preferably one with slow-release nitrogen.

No pests or diseases are of major concern, though it can sometimes be affected by scale insects. Mushroom root rot can also be troublesome when the soil is kept too wet.



Excerpts from *Gardening in a Minute: Tea Olive*, <http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu> and *Osmanthus fragrans: Sweet Osmanthus*, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>



Congratulations to Ms. Kim Dampier as our gift basket winner for completing our newsletter survey! Thank you all for taking the time to give feedback on our Extension newsletter!

Renew Your Newsletter Subscription and Snag A Free 2015 UF/IFAS Extension Calendar!

(Available while supplies last.)



FIRST REQUEST

If you would like to remain on the **Baker Bulletin** mailing list in 2015, please complete the form below and mail it or bring it to our office. *Highlights in Horticulture* and *Feathered Facts* 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.

I would like to receive *Feathered Facts* by email.

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please return this form to our office or mail it to: Baker County Extension Service
1025 W. Macclenny Ave.
Macclenny, FL 32063

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Extension Office Closed New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6 	7	8 	9	10
11	12	13  	14	15	16 	17
18	19 Extension Office Closed MLK Day	20 	21	22 	23 	24
25	26	27 	28	29	30	31

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



Agriculture

Upcoming Programs & Events

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

- Jan. 13** **North Florida Cattlemen's Association, Quarterly Meeting, 5:30pm to 8:00pm, Baker County Extension Office, 1025 W. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063.** The quarterly meeting of the North Florida Cattlemen's Association will be held at the Baker County Extension Auditorium. If you own cattle or are interested in cattle, please consider coming to the meeting and joining the association. There will be a program by Jim Handley, Executive Vice President of the Florida Cattlemen's Association along with presentations by UF | IFAS personnel. The program and dinner are sponsored, so there is no registration fee for the meeting. Please RSVP to 904-259-3520 or baker@ifas.ufl.edu by noon, January 12, 2015.
- Jan. 16** **Hydroponics and Alternative Gardening Workshop, 10:00am to 11:30am, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL.** Join us for a presentation and demonstrations on hydroponic and alternative growing methods. Class space is limited. \$5 registration fee due by January 13th and includes a small take-home floating water garden ready to use in your own 5– gallon bucket.
- Jan. 23** **Hydroponics and Alternative Gardening Workshop, 2:00pm to 3:30pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL.** Join us for a presentation and demonstrations on hydroponic and alternative growing methods. Class space is limited. \$5 registration fee due by January 20th and includes a small take-home floating water garden ready to use in your own 5– gallon bucket.
- Feb. 20** **Growing Backyard Blueberries & Blackberries, 10:00am to 12:00pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL.** Topics include variety selection, preparing to plant, care and maintenance, and pest management. \$2 registration fee due by February 13th includes materials and light refreshments.
- Apr. 18** **Spring Garden Festival, 9:00am to 2:00pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL.** For vendor information, please contact our office at 904-259-3520.



If you are interested in becoming a Baker County Master Gardener in 2015, we want to hear from you!



Please submit an interest from at:

http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/master_gardener.html

and you will be contacted by a program representative.



4-H Club Meetings & Events:

All County 4-H Club — January 8th & 22nd, 6pm — 4-H Classroom

Livestock Club — January 27th, 6pm— Ag Center Auditorium

Cloverleaf Cloggers — Tuesdays at 7pm— Fabulous Footworks.

Important Dates: January 2015

02– Livestock/Meats Judging Reg. DUE
2nd Exec. Board Reg. Due

09-10– Livestock/Meats Judging Clinic, UF

15– 4-H Association Meeting 6pm

16-18– 2nd Exec. Board Camp Ocala

19– Hog & Ham Workshop, UF

24– Union County Goat Show

26– **STEM Fair Reg. DUE**

30– County STEM Fair

Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:

Shaina Bennett,
4-H Agent

6

We all know a little bit of what 4-H is, but here is the “big picture” of what 4-H does:

4-H’ers across the nation are responding to challenges every day in their communities and their world.

As the youth development program of the Cooperative Extension System of land-grant universities, 4-H is the nation’s largest youth development organization, empowering six million young people throughout the United States. Cooperative Extension of 1862 and 1890 land-grant universities provide the leadership to engage young people in 4-H in all 3,007 counties of the United States. The impact of the Cooperative Extension partnership is profound, bringing together National Institute of Food and Agriculture of USDA, land grant universities and county government to resource learning opportunities for youth.

Through America’s 110 land-grant universities and its Cooperative Extension System, 4-H reaches every corner of our nation—from urban neighborhoods to suburban schoolyards to rural farming communities. With a network of more than 6 million youth, 540,000 volunteers, 3,500 professionals, and more than 60 million alumni, 4-H helps shape youth to move our country and the world forward in ways that no other youth organization can.

Proven Results of 4-H’s Success

The Positive Development of Youth: Comprehensive Findings from the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development is the first-ever research project of its kind. The decade-long study, completed by a team of researchers at the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development at Tufts University, Medford, MA, is influencing research and practice around the world.

The report shows that 4-H youth excel beyond their peers. 4-H’ers are about:

- **Four times** more likely to make **contributions to their communities** (Grades 7-12);
- **Two times** more likely to be **civically active** (Grades 8-12);
- **Two times** more likely to make **healthier choices** (Grade 7);
- **Two times** more likely to participate in **Science, Engineering and Computer Technology programs** during out-of-school time (Grades 10 – 12); and

4-H girls are **two times** more likely (Grade 10) and nearly **three times** more likely (Grade 12) to take part in **science programs** compared to girls in other out-of-school time activities.

From: <http://www.4-h.org/about/>

Events

January

- 02– Lvstck/Meats Judging Reg. DUE
2nd Exec. Board Reg. Due (want more info on this? Call Ms. Shaina)
- 09-10– Lvstck/Meats Judging Clinic, UF
- 15– 4-H Association Meeting 6pm
- 16-18– 2nd Exec. Board Camp Ocala
- 19– Hog & Ham Workshop, UF
- 24– Union County Goat Show
- 26– STEM Fair Reg. DUE
- 30– County STEM Fair

February

- 07– 4-H Day at the State Fair
- 20– Hog & Ham forms DUE
District STEM Fair Reg. DUE
- 27– District STEM Fair, Live Oak, FL

March

- 07– 4-H County Events
- 13– 4-H Day at the Capitol Reg. CLOSES
- 26– 4-H Day at the Capitol, Tallahassee, FL



Like Us! www.facebook.com/bakerco4h

Birthdays for January:

Wishing all of you a very **Happy Birthday!**

- 04– Natalie Taylor
- 05– Jason Bridges
- 06– Kyler Crews
- 08– Chase Gaskins
- 13– Kaity Small
- 14– Ridge Rhoden
- 16– Mrs. Madeline Carroll
- 17– Penny Davis
- 22– Mrs. Cheryl McCreary
- 30– Jayden Gaskins



Molting in Chickens



Have you noticed some of your chickens losing feathers during the last couple of months? Have your hens also decreased their egg production or stopped laying entirely? If so, your chickens are most likely going through a molt.

Molting in chickens is defined as the shedding or loss of old feathers to make way for new growth. Molting is normal in chickens and other birds and can occur in both males and females. Wild birds will typically shed older feathers before the cold weather season or before migration. This seasonal molting in wild birds is not associated with reproduction or egg laying.

The domesticated chickens that we have today have been bred over time to produce more eggs than their wild counterparts. Because of this, there is a link between egg production and molting in domesticated chickens.

Hens that are kept on a natural daylength cycle (no additional light beyond natural sunlight) will typically molt after they have been in production for 8 to 12 months. It can take up to 4 months for the molting cycle to be complete and you may notice a decrease in egg production during this time.

Molting is controlled by the reproductive organs (ovaries or testes) and the thyroid gland. In hens, a decrease in estrogen will be the main cause of a molt. It is because this decrease in estrogen also affects the reproductive system as a whole that we see a decrease in egg production during the molt.

Even though the molt is controlled by gonadal and thyroid hormone production, it is usually an external factor that initiates the decrease in estrogen, thus resulting in the molt. This initiator is decreasing day length, which is discussed in a separate article. There are also other factors that can lead to a premature or partial molt including such stressors as feed and water shortages, disease or cold temperatures.

Molting is frequently used in commercial egg production. As hens age, their egg quality and production rate will decrease. Molting is used as a 'reset' for these hens. The process allows the hens reproductive system to rest and recuperate from high production levels. Hens that have been through a molt will most likely not lay at the same rate as their highest production, but they will produce at 85% to 90% of their highest production rate.

Remember that molting is a natural process that is usually brought on by decreasing day length. Not all hens will respond to decreasing day length with a molt, but many will. If you have additional questions about chickens and molting, please visit http://msucares.com/poultry/management/poultry_feathers.html

Incandescent Bulb Wattage	Equivalent Lumens
40	450
60	800
75	1,100
100	1,600
150	2,600

Brightness is measured in lumens, although older incandescent bulbs were typically referred to by wattage. The table above give the equivalent lumens for comparison to wattage.

Baker County Extension Service

1025 West Macclenny Avenue
Macclenny, FL 32063

Phone: (904) 259-3520

FAX: (904) 259-9034

Email: michael.davis@ufl.edu

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

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 17
Macclenny FL 32063

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).



**The UF Weight Management Program Is
Now At Your Local Extension Office!**

Looking for a way to lose weight and get healthier? You are not alone. More and more Americans are becoming overweight, increasing risk for certain health problems, such as high blood pressure, diabetes and heart disease.

The University of Florida is conducting a weight management program at the Baker County Extension Office in Macclenny. Eligible adults can participate in this no-cost healthy lifestyle program aiming to help participants lose weight, increase fitness, improve nutrition and manage stress.

Sessions will be conducted by leaders with expertise in weight management, nutrition and physical fitness. Compensation for travel to sessions will be provided.

Call toll-free now for more information: 1-877-273-5235



*From the UF/IFAS Baker County
Extension Office*

Mike, Cindy, Alicia, Shaina & Matthew