



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 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
(Closed Noon to 1:00 pm for Lunch)

County Agents

Alicia Lamborn
Horticulture Agent

Shaina Spann
4-H Youth Development Agent

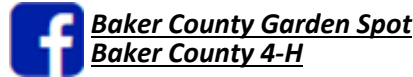
Alicia Halbritter
Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

Dear Extension Friends,

Spring is almost upon us, so now is the time to get your soil tested to determine soil supplement needs such as lime and fertilizer for your lawn, garden, or pasture. You can pick up a soil test form at the Extension Office, or [download one here](#). Instructions and mailing address are on the form, but don't hesitate to reach out to us if you're not sure which form you need or how to fill it out. And, don't forget to join us March 26th for our annual [spring plant sale](#)!

Sincerely,

Alicia Lamborn, County Director
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County



Programs & Events

- Mar 15 **Baker's Busy Bees 4-H Club Meeting @ 6pm**, Extension Office Classroom (new members welcome)
- Mar 22 **Livestock 4-H Club Meeting @ 6pm**, Ag Center Auditorium (new members welcome)
- Mar 26 **Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale** Baker County Extension Arboretum — see page 8.
- Online **Growing Blueberries & Blackberries** (Self-Paced Course — Free!) Topics include variety selection, care and maintenance, pest management, and even a section on raspberries! [Register here](#)
- Online **Selling Backyard Poultry Products** (Self-Paced, Online Course) [Register here](#).
- April 8 **Intro to Growing Crops in Protective Structures** NFREC-SV, Live Oak [Register here](#)



Highlights in Horticulture

By:
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent



Trap Crops, Intercropping, & Companion Planting

Spring Edition

There is much “information” on this topic online, but not all is backed by research. This article aims to provide research-based information on the topic, including the benefits of using these techniques, some things to consider before getting started, and some potentially practical applications for farmers (and perhaps home gardeners as well).

Trap Crops are grown as a control measure to lure pests away from the cash crop to protect it from attack. Pests are either prevented from reaching the crop or concentrated in certain parts of the field away from the main crop. The principle of trap cropping relies on pest preference for certain plant species, cultivars, or a certain stage of crop development (fruiting/seed production stage). When trap crops successfully attract pests, damage to the main crop is limited and insecticide treatments can be reserved for the trap crop growing in a localized area instead of treating the entire field.



Sunflowers, buckwheat, sorghum, millet, and okra can all act as trap crops by attracting stink bugs and leaf-footed bugs away from cash crops like tomatoes. Multiple cultivars provide a range of maturity dates; taller cultivars increase barrier effect. Portable containers can be useful for small acreage growers and home gardeners. Remove stink bugs from the trap crop by hand, vacuum, or insecticide.

Photo credit: R. Westerfield, M. Westerfield, and S. Adams, UGA Extension
https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201118_1.PDF

Intercropping is the growing of two or more crops in the same field to promote beneficial interactions between them. This may involve planting different crops in alternating row, or mixed intercropping by planting different crops in the same row or without regard to row. Intercropping can provide benefits to a management system, including decreased insect pest pressure, reduced need for external inputs, increases in biodiversity, enhanced production and lower economic risk.



Buckwheat & Squash: When buckwheat was intercropped with squash as opposed to using UV-reflective mulch in squash plantings, the result was lower pest pressure and higher beneficial insect populations.

Photo credit: Oscar Liburd <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/IN922>

Companion Planting refers to the establishment of two or more species in close proximity so that some cultural benefit (pest control or increased yield) may be achieved. Companion planting is a method of mixed intercropping most often used in small home gardens.



A good bug blend planted next to an organic strawberry field in California provides habitat for predators and parasitoids that attack strawberry pests. In a backyard setting, companion plants can be planted among vegetables or in close proximity to an edible garden.

Photo credit: Joe Valdez <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/IN922>

Benefits include reducing damage to cash crops, attracting beneficial organisms, decreased chemical use, enhanced biodiversity, and increased productivity.

Things to Consider: techniques are only beneficial when fields are likely to be invaded with high numbers of pests; improper management may create pest nurseries; treatment of trap crops with insecticides may lead to pesticide resistance and destruction of natural enemies; further complications may arise when trying to manage multiple pests with different behaviors; application may be limited for certain crops.

Barnyard Bulletin

By:
Alicia Halbritter,
Agriculture Agent



Harvesting Pond Fish: An Important Management Strategy



Do you have a pond on your property that you enjoy fishing in? Properly managing your fish pond by harvesting a desirable number of each species is an important strategy to maintaining the health of your pond and fish.

Fishing versus Harvesting

It's important to establish the difference between 'fishing' and 'harvesting'. Some pond owners may only be interested in fishing, which is simply the act of catching the fish, while harvesting is actually removing the fish from the pond. Generally no limits apply to fishing, but harvest limits are crucial to protect the pond.

Bass Harvesting

Bass are a desirable species in Florida ponds and we have to be careful not to overharvest. Pond owners should prevent anyone from harvesting bass less than 15 inches in length for a period of at least two to three years after stocking. If all bass less than 15 inches are released in the first three years, the pond should produce desirable sizes of all stocked species. The amount you are able to harvest each year will depend on how many were originally stocked. After three years, it's estimated about 25 8 to 12 inch bass should be harvested per acre, along with any bass over 15 inches. Do not harvest more than 20 to 25 pounds of bass per acre per year. If sunfish are stocked in the pond, harvest 4 to 6 pounds of sunfish for every pound of bass harvested in order to maintain proper stocking ratios.



Catfish Harvesting

Catfish can be harvested at any rate desirable to the pond owner. Keep a good record of the number and size of fish harvested so that the population can be maintained. Supplemental stocking of 8– to 12-inch fingerlings may be needed if too many fish are harvested. Smaller catfish can be stocked if bass are not in the pond, if bass are present then larger fingerlings are needed to prevent predation loss.

Get a more in-depth look at managing your pond for fishing here: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FA001>



What is County Events?

County and district level presentations provide a valuable teaching and learning situation. They give members an opportunity to:

- Practice making oral and visual presentations.
- Learn presentation techniques from observing others.
- Receive constructive suggestions for improvement.
- Receive recognition for efforts.

The County 4-H program receives additional recognition and visibility through these activities. All 4-H events should foster a strong educational 4-H program by providing physical, mental, social, and emotional growth experiences for individual 4-H members. Events should give 4-H members positive, meaningful experiences in leadership and citizenship development.

Competitive events are a planned part of the 4-H curriculum, designed to allow youth to:

- Gain experience and develop skills in gathering, preparing, and presenting educational information.
- Enhance decision making capabilities.
- Make public presentations.
- Learn standards by which comparisons are drawn.
- Develop good sportsmanship.

Competitive events are just one of the many teaching methods used by 4-H leaders and Extension Agents.

County Events are a very important part of participation in 4-H beyond the club level. At county events you can compete in the following activities: Demonstrations, Illustrated talks, Fashion Revue (fashion show/sewing), Horse Public Speaking, Photography, Graphic Design, and Share-The-Fun (talent show).

ALL 4-H MEMBERS SHOULD PARTICIPATE! Please submit entries through the online [Google Site](#).

**Entries are due April 11th by midnight.
District Events is April 30th in Gainesville.**

Categories for County Events

- Demonstrations & Illustrated talks
 - Animals
 - Citizenship and Leadership
 - Communication and Expressive Arts
 - Family and Consumer Sciences
 - Healthy Living
 - Nature and the Outdoors
 - Plants and Gardening
 - Science and Technology
- Fashion Revue (fashion show/sewing)
- Public Speaking/Horse Public Speaking
- Photography
 - People**-Any photo where the main subject(s) is a person or people.
 - Flora and Fauna**-Plants, animals; Living items found in nature.
 - Scenic**- Cityscapes, rural landscapes, natural settings that do not fit into the Flora and Fauna category.
 - Still Life**-An arrangement or display of inanimate objects.
 - Black and White**- Any subject in black and white.
- Graphic Design
 - Brochure**- This is a tri-fold brochure that should contain information on both the front and the back. It should be easily read and printed with 8 ½ x 11
 - Flyer**- This is an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper, that will promote your topic of choice
 - Other**- Any other promotional material ex: mini-books, bookmarks, postcards, etc.
 - PowerPoint Presentation**- 5 –10 slides and a script to accompany the presentation. For best presentation, include the script for each slide in the “notes” section of the PowerPoint.
- Share-The-Fun (talent show)
 - Acts should be 3-5 minutes in length

4-H Club Meetings & Events

- **Baker's Busy Bees**— March 15 at 6pm; Extension Office Classroom
 - **Livestock Club**— March 22 at 6pm; Extension Auditorium

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.

Carolina Silverbell

This North American native tree provides year-round interest in the landscape, having attractive medium green foliage, pretty flowers, showy fruits, and peeling bark. A small tree, Carolina Silverbell (*Halesia carolina*) reaches 20 to 40-foot-tall and 15 to 30-foot-wide and has a pyramidal shape.



5426498

Photo credit: Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

The tree begins blooming when only 10 to 12 feet tall, producing clusters of showy, white, bell-shaped blossoms. Flowering occurs in mid-May. The pale, yellow fruits that follow are also quite attractive. Leaves turn yellow in fall and are among the first to drop in autumn, revealing the bark that peels off in large, flat scales.



5500427

Photo credit: T. Davis Sydnor, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

Silverbell plantings are limited to north Florida (zones 8A-8B). Although this species will tolerate full sun, it is best suited as an understory tree where it will remain shaded or partially shaded. Moist, fertile soil with leaf litter and/or mulch is preferred. Avoid planting in compacted soil and water the tree during times of drought.

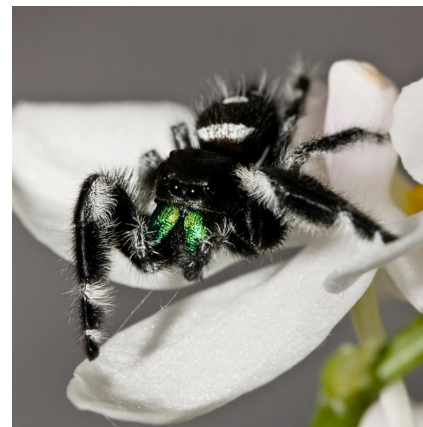
A very limited number of Silverbell trees will be available at the spring plant sale on March 26

Article adapted and excerpted from: Gilman, Edward F. and Watson, Dennis G. 2014. *Halesia Carolina*: Carolina Silverbell. UF/IFAS <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/ST288>

Regal Jumping Spider

The Regal Jumping Spider (*Phidippus regius*) is the largest jumping spider in eastern North America, and the jumping spider most frequently encountered in Florida.

Males are always black with white markings and have iridescent green-blue-violet-colored chelicerae (equivalent to jaws, but commonly referred to as fangs). Females may have the same color pattern, but often have dorsal scales displaying colors of gray, tan, brown, and/or orange. Although less noticeable than in males, the chelicerae color is typically iridescent red-violet or green.



One thing you might notice about jumping spiders is their eye arrangement. The eyes are arranged in 3 rows with the first row (containing 2 large median eyes + 2 smaller lateral eyes) being the most noticeable.



Their preferred habitat is open woodlands; adults favor palms and palmettoes. With excellent vision, they jump on prey which may include flies, grasshoppers, caterpillars, stinkbugs, and more.

Although jumping spiders do not make webs to capture prey, they do create silken nests used for resting at night, molting, and egg laying. They will also trail a dragline behind them to break their fall in case they miss a jump. Males court females with a species-specific dance.

Reference: Edwards, Glavis B. 2021. Regal Jumping Spider, *Phidippus regius* C. L. Koch (Arachnida: Salticidae). UF/IFAS <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/IN309> Photo credits: Canva

Extension Tidbits



HOW TO BUILD A SMART SPENDING PLAN: SIX STEPS

Why was the bee mad?

You'd be mad too if someone stole your honey and nectar.

How did the bee brush his hair?

With a honeycomb.

What are
spring's
favorite
type of
pickles?
Daffodils!



FLORIDA *Beekeeping* CALENDAR

March

Check-list

Control Nosema. Make sure your colonies are well-fed to reduce Nosema spore counts. (1 million spores per bee is considered high.)

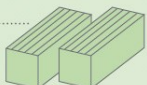
Control Varroa. Consider treating when levels reach 3% (use alcohol wash or sugar shake). Treatment options include Apiguard, Apistan, Apivar, Hopguard, and Mite Away. Always follow product label instructions.

AFB/EFB: Colonies can be treated with Terramycin (oxytetracycline) or Tylan (tylosin) for American foulbrood (AFB), or Lincomix (lincomycin) or Terramycin (oxytetracycline) for European foulbrood (EFB). These products require a prescription or a Veterinary Feed Directive from a veterinarian.

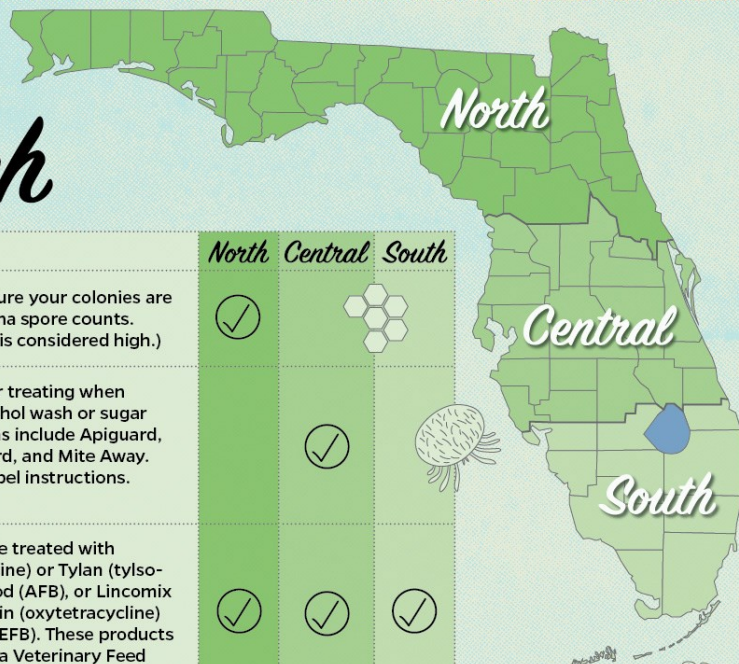
Queen issues are problematic this time of year. Remedy failing queens as necessary.

Colony populations begin to grow. Add supers and/or control swarming as necessary.

Make nucs/splits.



North Central South



What's Blooming This Month?

North

Blueberry	Oak	Spring titi
Cherry	Plum	Sweet clover
Fetterbush	Spanish needle	Walter viburnum
Hawthorne	Sparkleberry	Willow

Central

Blueberry	Oak	Sweet clover
Cherry	Orange	Walter viburnum
Fetterbush	Plum	Willow
Hawthorne	Spanish needle	

South

American beautyberry	Mexican clover	Seagrape
Buttonwood	Oak	Spanish needle
Lychee	Orange	Sweet clover
	Primrose willow	Saw palmetto

For scientific names of plants in the above list, visit <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in1223>

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN

March



	North	Central	South
 Easily Survives Transplanting	Arugula, Boniato, Eggplant, Kohlrabi, Peppers, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes	Arugula, Boniato, Chinese Cabbage, Gingers, Kohlrabi, Peppers, Roselle, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tropical Spinaches	Arugula, Boniato, Chinese Cabbage, Endive, Gingers, Roselle, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tropical Spinaches
 Transplant Carefully	Spinach, Sweet Potatoes	Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squash, Luffa, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pigeon Pea, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes, Yucca	Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes, Yucca
 Use Seeds	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Cantaloupes, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peanuts, Peas (English, southern), Radish, Squashes, Watermelon	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Cantaloupes, Carrots, Chayote, Corn, Cucumbers, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peas (southern), Radish, Squashes, Watermelon	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Cantaloupes, Carrots, Chayote, Corn, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peas (southern), Radish, Squashes, Watermelon



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Gardening SOLUTIONS

For more information, please visit GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu

Plant These Herbs

SPRING

CORIANDER
Annual, use seeds as needed

BASIL
Annual, use leaves as needed

LEMON BALM
Perennial, use leaves as needed

CHIVES
Perennial, use leaves as needed

SAGE
Perennial, use leaves as needed

DILL
Annual, use seedheads as needed

PARSLEY
Biennial, use leaves as needed

TARRAGON
Perennial, use leaves as needed

LAVENDER
Perennial, use leaves as needed

OREGANO
Perennial, use leaves as needed

THYME
Perennial, use leaves & flowers as needed

MARJORAM
Perennial, use leaves as needed

For more information, please visit GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu

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Gardening SOLUTIONS

Master Gardener

PLANT SALE



A fundraiser for the Baker County Arboretum

Free entry!

Shop for a cause!

Stroll through the gardens!

Enjoy free activities for the kids!

Don't forget your wagon!

FEATURING

-  Trees & Shrubs
-  Flowering Perennials
-  Vegetables & Herbs
-  Houseplants & Foliage
-  Grasses & Groundcovers
-  Vines, Succulents, & More!

MARCH 26

8AM - NOON

Agricultural Center
1025 W. Macclenny Ave.
Macclenny, FL 32063

UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

📞 904-259-3520

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