



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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**2023 MASTER GARDENER PLANT
SALE—MARCH 25TH**

The UF/IFAS Extension Office is available to help you with your farming, gardening, landscaping, and 4-H youth development needs by providing educational programming, free consultations and information. Contact us at:

UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

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



Programs & Events

- Mar 11 **North Florida Outdoor Expo**, March 11, 9:00 am—3:00 pm, Austin Cary Forest, Gainesville. Family fun event for outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds. \$5 [Register here.](#)
- Mar 17 **Leafy Greens 101**, March 17, 9:00 am—3:00 pm, UF/IFAS NFREC-Suwannee Valley (Farm), Live Oak. From seeding to selling, this course covers the A-Zs of leafy greens. \$65 [Register here.](#)
- Mar 24 **Transplant Production 101**, March 24, 9:00 am—3:00 pm, UF/IFAS NFREC-Suwannee Valley (Farm), Live Oak. Includes class materials, lunch, and refreshments. \$50 [Register here.](#)
- Mar 25 **Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale**, March 25, 8:00 am — 12:00 noon, Baker County Extension Office Arboretum. Mega plant sale featuring trees, shrubs, fruits, veggies, herbs, flowers, houseplants, and more!
- April 4 **Landowner Financial Assistance Expo**, April 4, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Farm & forestry financial assistance programs. Meet with agencies offering cost-share & other assistance. \$10 [Register here.](#)
- May 19 **Introductory Tractor Driving & Safety Course**, May 19, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Designed for beginning drivers. Includes hands-on instruction with tractors and implements of all sizes. \$75 [Register here.](#)
- Online **Growing Strawberries** (Self-Paced Course — Free!) [Register here.](#)
- Online **Growing Blueberries & Blackberries** (Self-Paced Course — Free!) [Register here.](#)
- Online **Selling Backyard Poultry Products** (Self-Paced, Online Course) [Register here.](#)
- Online **Backyard Chicken Class** (Self-Paced, Online Course) [Register here.](#)

Highlights in Horticulture

By:
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent



Lawn Q&A: Weeding and Feeding

Q: When should I fertilize my lawn this spring?

A: In general, lawns should be fertilized in April, but there is no magic day on the calendar when it is now okay to fertilize because it is really dependent on the weather. A good rule of thumb is to wait until after you've had to mow your grass twice. Growing grass indicates warm enough weather for your lawn to completely come out of dormancy, meaning it will be able to take up and use the fertilizer that you put down.

Q: Should I use a weed-n-feed product?

A: To be effective, the first application of a pre-emergent herbicide (like those contained in weed-n-feeds) should be applied in late February or early March when day temperatures reach 65°F to 75°F for four or five consecutive days. However, a fertilizer application this early in the year could be ineffective or even harmful to the lawn. At the time your pre-emergent herbicide should be applied, the lawn is generally still dormant and roots are not active enough to take up much fertilizer, leading to groundwater pollution. Therefore, best way to weed and feed your lawn is to use a pre-emergent herbicide and turf fertilizer separately.

Q: I'm planning to patch some areas of my lawn, either by seeding or using plugs. Can I go ahead and plant now, and when should I put down fertilizer?

A: Planting, whether with seed or plugs, can safely be done anytime from late April to July to permit a full growing season before the return of winter. However, it is proper water management, not fertilizer, that is crucial for establishing the lawn. For seeded areas, keep the seedbed continuously moist with light frequent sprinklings several times daily. As the seedlings or plugs take root and grow, decrease watering frequency and increase the amount applied each time. Fertilizer should not be applied for at least 30 to 60 days after planting to allow roots to establish to a point where they are able to take up the fertilizer.

Q: I have a lot of weed problems in my yard and would like to kill everything and start over from scratch. I'm thinking of planting either Centipede or Zoysia. Which would be a better choice?

A: I can understand your frustration with the weeds, but starting over from scratch isn't as easy as it sounds. In many cases, homeowners end up with even more weed problems when the current grass is removed and the soil is disturbed. Plus, getting the new lawn established takes time and careful attention. Of course the choice is up to you. But if you still have a fair amount of turf left in the yard, I would highly recommend managing the weeds and focusing on making your lawn healthier. As for those bare areas that are left, you'll need to fill them in with some type of grass or the weeds will just return. The Extension Office offers weed identification and management recommendations, lawn care advice, plus soil testing to determine which grass type will be a better fit for your soil type along with fertilizer needs.

Feeding the Pollinators: No Mow March

Lawns and landscapes have potential to support many of our native pollinators during our transition into Spring. There are many winter weeds and wildflowers that serve as nectar and pollen sources for native bees and other pollinating insects. By allowing your lawn or a part of your landscape to be more natural, you are supporting pollinator populations. Consider continuing your break from mowing through the month of March for pollinators.



Barnyard Bulletin

By:
Alicia Halbritter,
Agriculture Agent



Cattle Breeds for Small Farms

Are you interested in keeping cattle to sell or provide meat for yourself? Choosing a breed is an important first step in your operation!

Angus

Angus & Angus-influenced cattle are by far the most popular beef breeds in the United States. These cattle are large, heavily muscled breeds that generally have good carcass characteristics, including good marbling, and ribeye area. On average, black-hided cattle bring more at the market than other colors, this is a result of angus cattle tending to perform well on the rail. Small operations should focus on higher profit margins, therefore angus cattle tend to be the best option. This breed also tend to make good mothers are therefore are an easier option for smaller, potentially more in-experienced ranchers. Crosses with Angus cattle also perform very well, don't think you must purchase registered, purebred angus to see the positive results!



Hereford

Hereford cattle are red bodied with a white face/head. These stocky cattle are well muscled, fast growing animals with a good quality meat. Since they do not have a black hide they may bring slightly less at the market than Angus cattle, but they are still a suitable option for small farms. Herefords crossed with an Angus are called 'baldies', these cows have a black body and a white head. White faced cattle can have issues with pink eye & skin cancers.



Brahman

Brahman, and Brahman-influence cattle are a great choice for small farmers in Florida since they are more heat-tolerant and less susceptible to pest issues. These cattle have large humps on the back and large dewlaps, although they tend not to produce as high quality meat as other breeds. Cross-breeding with brahmans can help increase the heat tolerance of your cattle. Cattle that are angus & brahman are called Brangus.



Milking

Some small farms may be interested in keeping a milk cow for personal consumption. Most small farms will keep a Jersey or Brown Swiss cow, but Holsteins are the largest dairy breeds in the country and may be easier to purchase than other breeds. Milking cows must be bred to continue producing milk and should be allowed to have a dry-off period. Make sure to pre-plan what you are going to do with calves produced and plan to pasteurize your milk for food safety!





What is a 4-H Demonstration?

We all know how to do something. From tying your shoes to making a cake, we all can tell someone step by step how to do a task.

That's exactly what a 4-H demonstration is; demonstrating to an audience how to do something. When making your own 4-H demonstration you want to think of something that you know well enough that you can teach to other people. Having the subject be related to your 4-H project is nice, but it isn't required. An illustrated talk is very similar to a demonstration, but you are speaking about a specific subject, not teaching a task.

To make your 4-H demonstration/illustrated talk you want to:

- Have an introduction/hook to your presentation
- Introduce yourself, age, years in 4-H and you can add how many demonstrations you have done
- Tell them what you are going to tell them
- Tell them
- Tell them what you told them
- Conclude your presentation
- Ask if there are any questions

You want to speak loud and proud! You know your information, and if you forget something small, no one will notice but you!

The categories for demonstrations and illustrated talks are:

- Animals
- Citizenship and Leadership
- Communication and Expressive Arts
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Healthy Living
- Nature and the Outdoors
- Plants and Gardening
- Science and Technology



Timing for Speeches

Juniors & Intermediates: 3-12 minutes and Seniors: 5-12 minutes. If you are under or over these times, points will be deducted.

Rules for Competition

- No living vertebrates may be brought to district or state level events
- A team can be no more than 2 people
- State entries must have competed at the county/district levels
- Each presentation will be the same from district level to state level. A 4-H'er should definitely improve, but the presentation must remain basically the same.
- Participants must provide all equipment and supplies for their presentations

4-H Club Meetings & Events

- March 6 – 4pm, Cloverbuddies Club, 4-H Classroom
- March 28 – 6pm, Livestock Club, Ag. Center Auditorium
- April 19– 4-H Day at the Capitol; Deadline to register- March 20. Cost:\$20 register through 4-H Online.
- **May 8– COUNTY EVENTS– In person Deadline to register May 1st through 4-H online.**



BAKER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
CITRUS TREE SALE

Sugar Belle®

Mandarin Hybrid

(HLB-tolerant, cold tolerant, harvest Nov/Dec)

PRE-ORDER YOUR TREES TODAY

\$35 EACH

**PLACE YOUR ORDER AT THE BAKER COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
1025 W. MACCLENNY AVE, MACCLENNY FL 32063**

*IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE PAY IN PERSON - MAILED CHECKS MAY BE RETURNED IF TREES RUN OUT
CALL 904-259-3520 FOR MORE INFORMATION

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

TREES: _____ X \$35 EACH TOTAL: _____

- I'M LOCAL - WILL PICKUP WHEN TREES ARRIVE (FEB-MARCH, DATE TBD)
- I'M NOT LOCAL - WILL PICKUP AT THE MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE ON MARCH 25



2023
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
-  Fruits, Vegetables, Herbs
-  Houseplants & Foliage
-  Grasses & Groundcovers
-  Vines, Succulents, & More!

MARCH 25

8AM - NOON

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

UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

📞 904-259-3520

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