



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

Baker County Extension Service

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Macclenny, FL 32063

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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

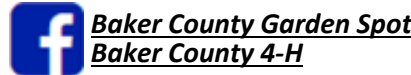
Alicia Halbritter
Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

Dear Extension Friends,

Summer is almost here and we have some great classes and camps planned. Plus we are offering an opportunity for students to earn community service hours by assisting with projects around the county during our Serve Week. Be sure to register for these events early to save your spot (see pages 1 & 4 for more information). As always, thank you for your continued support of your local Extension Office. If there is anything we can help you with, please let us know!

Sincerely,

Alicia Lamborn, County Director
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County



Programs & Events

- May 17 **Baker's Busy Bees 4-H Club Meeting @ 6pm**, 4-H classroom (new members welcome)
- May 24 **Livestock 4-H Club Meeting @ 6pm**, Ag Center Auditorium
- June 3 **Plant Propagation Class @ 10 am**, Baker County Extension Office. Learn how to collect, store, and plant seeds for your garden or landscape, as well as techniques for rooting cuttings, layering, and more! This is a hands-on workshop - each participant will take home a tray filled with a variety of plant cuttings for their garden. Pre-register [online](#) or stop by the Extension Office.
- 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) Learn how to start a business (or improve an existing business) selling eggs, meat, or live poultry in the state of Florida. Topics include licensing/registration, record keeping, filing taxes, marketing your product, and drawing an income. [Register here.](#)

Highlights in Horticulture

By: *Alicia Lamborn, Horticulture Agent*



Plants for Wet Areas

Poorly drained soils are often viewed as problem areas in a landscape. But they don't have to be as long as you choose the right plant for the right place! So whether part of your landscape puddles after a downpour or turns into a swamp part of the year, look to these plants that tolerate at least occasional flooding. For more information on these species (plus others) and to ensure you find your best match, visit: <https://www.fnps.org/plants>

Trees

- Ash (White, Green, Water)
- Atlantic White Cedar
- Cypress (Bald, Pond)
- Elm (Florida, Winged)
- Hornbeam/Musclewood
- Loblolly Bay
- Maple (Florida, Red)
- Mayhaw
- River Birch
- Sugarberry
- Swamp Dogwood
- Sweet Bay Magnolia
- Red Buckeye
- Water Hickory

Photo credits: Alicia Lamborn, UF/IFAS



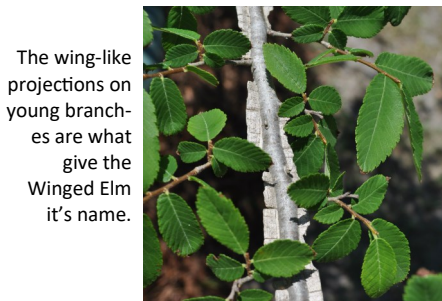
Pond cypress needles stand up rather than fan out.



The River Birch produces attractive papery bark that naturally peels for year-round interest.

Shrubs

- Anise (Yellow, Red)
- Buttonbush
- Dwarf Palmetto
- Hydrangea
- Oakleaf Hydrangea
- Simpson's Stopper
- Sparkleberry
- Swamp Hibiscus
- Sweet Pepperbush
- Sweetspire
- Virginia Willow



The wing-like projections on young branches are what give the Winged Elm its name.



Muhly grass creates beautiful purple plumes of flowers during fall.

Flowers & Grasses

- Blue Flag Iris
- Cardinal Flower
- Fakahatchee Grass
- Golden Canna

- Muhly Grass
- Swamp Hibiscus
- Swamp Sunflower

Construction and Trees Don't Mix

Tree roots are easily damaged from heavy equipment during construction. So if you're planning on putting in a pool, building a barn, or adding on to the house, be sure you consider the critical root zone if you want to keep your trees.

There is a risk of failure when more than 40% of the roots in the Critical Root Zone (CRZ) are damaged or destroyed during construction activities.

To determine the CRZ of your tree, you will need to measure the DBH, or diameter of the tree at breast height, and then multiply the diameter by 1.5. This will give you the minimum number of feet surrounding the tree to protect from equipment or digging.

Be sure to install orange construction fencing or use other means to prevent any heavy equipment from wandering in the critical root zone region.

Saving Trees from Construction

Protect the critical root zone during construction to reduce the risk of tree failure.

DBH x 1.5 = Critical Root Zone

DBH	CRZ
5 in.	7.5 ft.
10	15
15	22.5
20	30

Tree diameter at breast height (DBH) in inches $\times 1.5 =$ Critical root zone (CRZ): Minimum area to protect in feet

UF IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Barnyard Bulletin

By:
Alicia Halbritter,
Agriculture Agent



Choosing the Right Bull

Breeding cattle on your operation? Bull selection is imperative to growing your herd in the right direction.

Breed Type

There are more than 60 different breeds of cattle grown for meat in the United States. First you must choose a breed that compliments the breed of your cows/heifers. Breeds raised in Florida should be heat and pest tolerant to reduce environmental impacts on your pregnancy rates. Even if you decide to crossbreed your cattle, make sure the bull you select is compatible with your existing herd as it relates to genetics and potential.



Physical Appearance

One of the first things to evaluate on a potential bull is structural correctness. A physically fit bull will be able to perform and breed for more seasons than one that isn't sound. Take care to evaluate the angles of the legs. Watch the cattle walk on a level surface, one that is structurally sound will place each hind hoof in the track of the corresponding front hoof. Bulls should look masculine and be thickest through the middle of their hind-quarters when viewed from the rear. Wide, flat backs and large upper forearms are indicators of good muscling. Conduct a breeding soundness exam, including semen quality evaluations before purchasing any bull.



Pedigree

Registered bulls, and sometimes unregistered bulls, can have their lineage tracked. Knowing the pedigree of an animal and the history of their genetics can help determine the potential of the animal. This is especially important if the bull is young and unproven. It's important to compare cattle within a contemporary group, or a group that consists of similar breed composition, sex, age, and raised under the same management conditions to determine if it's environment or genetics.

Performance Records

An older bull will have proven performance records, indications of his genetic potential demonstrated by his previous calf crops. Expected progeny differences and their related accuracies from past breeding seasons can help you select a bull that is suitable for your herd. Pay special attention to birth weights as you will need to pick a bull that throws appropriate sized calves for your cows/heifers to birth.



What is Service Learning?

According to Edutoptia.org, service learning is “An educational approach that combines learning objectives with community service to provide a progressive learning experience.” This means that through a service-learning experience, students work to identify a problem or need within their community and create a plan of action to help. 4-H programs across the world contribute to their communities through these types of projects.

What kind of projects can youth do in service learning? This first step is to use critical thinking to identify a community need. Next, is to prepare to take action by learning skills needed for the project. Then youth can engage in meaningful and creative service that they helped design. After the service project, youth can communicate their experiences (reflect) from before, during, and after the project. Lastly, youth can showcase their experiences from the service-learning project to the community.

Examples of service-learning projects are:

- Help out at a Habitat for Humanity building site.
- Make bags of toiletries and food for the homeless.
- Help clean up an area of the community.
- Set up a team for older students to help tutor younger students.
- Create an environmental awareness campaign.
- Set up a buddy program with a senior citizens home.

All of these and more are options within 4-H! 4-H has a program called Community Pride where youth write a grant proposal for a service-learning project and if they win the grant, the project will be funded.

Join us during the Serve Week Camp to learn about serving our community and earn community service hours!

2022 4-H Summer Day Camps

Serve Week: June 13-17 High School Age Cost: Free

Giving back to the community and gaining 30 hours for scholarships? This day camp will take youth around the county to help out. Youth must attend all 5 days to receive total hours. Some transportation is available, youth may drive themselves.

Florida Outdoors: June 20-23 Ages 9-13 Cost: \$60 Bring Lunch Each Day

Explore Florida! Learn about freshwater, saltwater, and forest ecosystems while experiencing them. Transportation will be provided.

Sweet Treats: July 11-14 Ages 8-13 Cost: \$60 Bring Lunch Mon-Wed

Participants will learn where our food comes from! Seeing sugar in the field to eating it in desserts, it plays an important part of the many foods we eat. Come learn about, and eat, some sweet treats!

Wood Working: July 25-27 Ages 10+ Cost: \$60 Bring Lunch Each Day

Learn how to use tools and create with wood! This camp will teach participants wood working skills and let them build their own creations!

Transportation will be provided. Registration and payment is due two weeks prior to camp. All ages are as of 09/01/2021.

Payment is required to secure registration cash or check in office and credit card [online](#). Payment plans available upon request. Registration open in [4-H Online](#).

4-H Club Meetings & Events

- **Livestock Animal Participants COMMITMENT FORMS DUE May 13th**
 - **Baker’s Busy Bees**— May 17th at 6pm in the 4-H Classroom.
 - **Livestock Club**— May 24th at 6pm Ag Center 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.

Blue Flag Iris

The Blue Flag Iris (*Iris virginica*) is a long-lived perennial that also goes by the names of Virginia Iris and Southern Blue-flag.



Photo credit: Alicia Lamborn, UF/IFAS

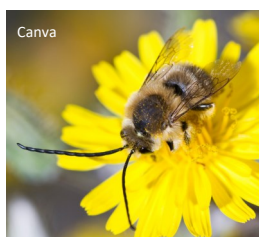
Growing in marshes and floodplains, the Blue Flag Iris's natural Florida range extends through only about 20 north/central Florida counties. But due to its popularity, it is now common in landscapes and natural areas throughout Florida.

This plant makes a great addition to a moist wildflower garden or [rain garden](#). It will even grow in areas that stay wet with standing water, which make it perfect for planting along pond edges. Regular watering is typically required if soils are not at least somewhat consistently moist.

The Blue Flag Iris can be grown in full sun, but appreciates a partially shaded location in the garden. Soil pH should be acidic to neutral.

Growing up to 4 feet tall, the species has sword-like foliage but is noted for its lavender to dark purple flowers that appear in spring.

Pollinators include bumblebees and long-horned bees. Butterflies visit for nectar but are not effective pollinators.



The long-horned bee is named for its extraordinarily long antennae.

Luna Moth

The luna moth (*Actias luna*) is a large green moth with long-tailed hind wings and eyespots. The eyespots resemble a picturesque moon, which gives the moth its name. Although their range expands the eastern and mid-U.S., adults can only be found year-round in Louisiana and Florida.



These moths are usually found in forested areas near their host plants which vary by locale. Here in the south, the caterpillars munch on the leaves of walnut, hickory, sumacs, sweetgum, and persimmon.



Luna caterpillars change in appearance as they grow. Pictured above and moving clockwise are the first, third, and fifth (last) instar larvae of the luna moth.

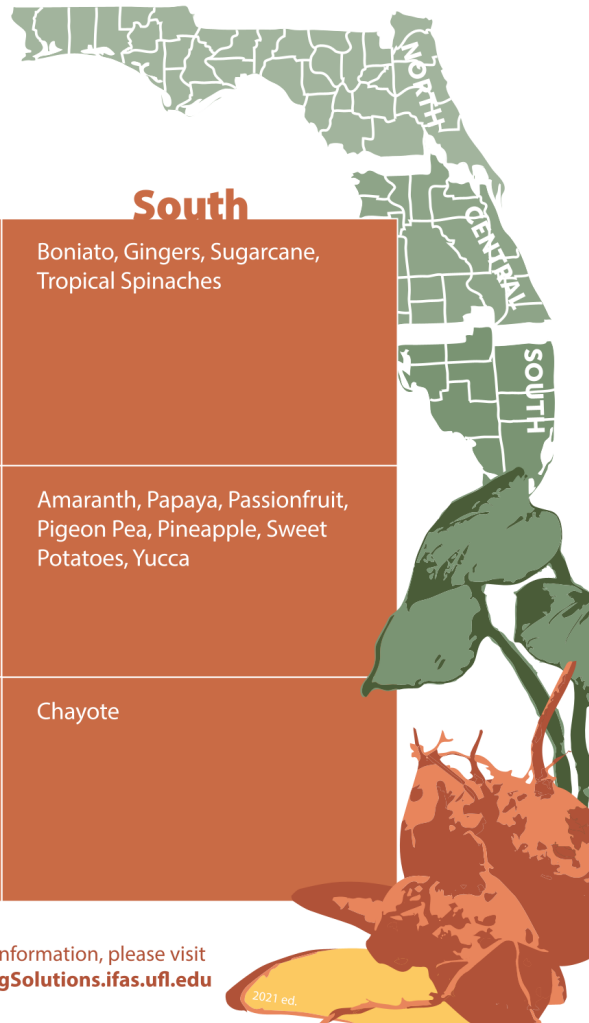
Photo credits: Donald W. Hall, University of Florida.

Their green coloration helps protect them from predators. When threatened, caterpillars will rear their front end up (possibly to make them less caterpillar-like) and if attacked, will make a clicking noise with their mandibles before regurgitating distasteful fluids to prevent being eaten. For adults in flight, the twisted long tails are believed to interfere with echo-location by hunting bats (but do provide protection from hunting owls).

Extension Tidbits

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN

May



North

Central

South

 <p>Easily Survives Transplanting</p>	<p>Boniato, Gingers, Roselle, Tropical Spinaches</p>	<p>Boniato, Gingers, Roselle, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tropical Spinaches</p>	<p>Boniato, Gingers, Sugarcane, Tropical Spinaches</p>
 <p>Transplant Carefully</p>	<p>Amaranth, Calabaza, Long Squash, Luffa, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pigeon Pea, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes</p>	<p>Amaranth, Calabaza, Long Squash, Luffa, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pigeon Pea, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes, Yucca</p>	<p>Amaranth, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pigeon Pea, Pineapple, Sweet Potatoes, Yucca</p>
 <p>Use Seeds</p>	<p>Chayote, Okra, Peanuts, Peas (southern)</p>	<p>Chayote, Okra, Peanuts, Peas (southern)</p>	<p>Chayote</p>

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Gardening SOLUTIONS

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

2021 ed.

Florida Blueberry Breakfast Casserole

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups Florida blueberries
- 1 white bread loaf
- 4 ounces cream cheese
- 8 large eggs, beaten
- 1 ½ cups milk
- ¼ cup maple syrup
- ½ stick butter, melted

PREPARATION

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cut bread into 1-inch cubes. Cut cream cheese into small cubes. Lightly grease a 9-inch square baking dish. Place half of the bread cubes in the dish. Evenly place the cream cheese cubes and 1 cup of the blueberries over the bread. Add the remaining bread cubes and blueberries to the top of the casserole. In a medium-sized bowl, combine eggs, milk, maple syrup, and butter. Slowly pour egg mixture over bread. Cover casserole with foil and bake for approximately 45 minutes. Remove from oven and insert a toothpick in the center of the casserole. When it comes out clean, remove the foil. Bake for approximately 10 more minutes or until top appears golden brown. Let cool slightly and serve warm with extra maple syrup on the side.

<https://www.followfreshfromflorida.com/recipes/florida-blueberry-breakfast-casserole>

