



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

County Agents

Alicia Lamborn
Horticulture Agent

Shaina Spann
4-H Youth Development Agent

Alicia Halbritter
Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

Dear Extension Friends,

We are officially welcoming spring this month with a variety of great classes and events to feed your thirst for knowledge. For anyone interested in giving back to the community, Extension is always in need of volunteers. Give us a call to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

Sincerely,

Alicia Lamborn
County Director / Horticulture Agent
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

Plastic Flower Pot Donations Needed!

If you have old, plastic nursery pots laying around, please consider donating them to the Master Gardener Program for recycling. We can accept all sizes, but particularly need gallon and quart sized pots. Feel free to drop them off at the Extension Office, preferably at the back fence near the greenhouse. Thank you!

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

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/bakerco>

[Baker County Garden Spot](#)
[Baker County 4-H](#)

Search "Baker County 4-H" in your app store

Upcoming Classes & Events

- Mar 22** **Gardening for Pollinators**, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Baker County Extension Office. Learn which plants and gardening techniques will attract the most number of butterflies and bees to your garden. \$10 registration includes a set of pollinator field guides (for plants & insects) and a pollinator plant. Register in the office or online: <http://pollinategardening.eventbrite.com>
- Mar 29** **Landscaping for Success**, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Baker County Extension Office. Perfect for new and experienced gardeners. Topics will include top performing plants for our area, landscape design tips, low maintenance practices and common mistakes made by gardeners. \$10 registration includes 2 gardening books (Florida-Friendly Landscaping & Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design) plus a plant of choice. Register in the office or online: <https://landscaping.eventbrite.com>
- Mar 30** **Equine Academy**, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Baker County Fairgrounds. See details on page 6.
- Apr 10** **Hydroponic Gardening for the Homeowner**, 8:15 am to 12:15 pm, UF/IFAS NFREC- Suwannee Valley, 8202 CR 417, Live Oak, FL. Topics include hydroponic systems, growing transplants, fertilizer and IPM. www.HomeownerHydro.eventbrite.com
- Apr 13** **Spring Garden Festival**, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Baker County Extension Office. Festival includes a plant sale, kid's activity booth, gardening exhibits, and more. Free entry. Call (904) 259-3520 for vendor information.



Pick up a FREE 2019 CALENDAR at the Baker County Extension Office!

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Highlights in Horticulture

By:
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent



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March Gardening Tips

Flowers

- Cool season annuals will continue to flourish this month. Wait until the end of the month to plant warm-season annuals like angelonia, begonia and zinnia.
- Plant bulbs such as dahlia, canna and gloriosa for spring and summer flowering.

Trees & Shrubs

- Prune azaleas when they have finished blooming to reduce their size and improve their form.

Lawns

- To prevent warm-season weeds, a general rule is to apply a pre-emergent herbicide around March 1st.
- Brown circles in the lawn could be a sign of large patch fungus (brown patch). This disease thrives with mild temperatures and moisture, especially in St. Augustine and Zoysia lawns. For more info: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh044>

Vegetables

- Soil testing is recommended every 1-3 years. For \$7 you can learn your lime and fertilizer requirements for the season.
- Many like to get a jump start on planting the garden this month, but freezing weather is still a threat. Consider starting seeds indoors and transplanting after the danger of frost has passed.

Fruits & Nuts

- For info on pruning and fertilizing in the orchard, see <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker> or click [here](#).

Irrigation Systems

- Check your sprinkler system and correct problems such as broken or misaligned spray heads before spring arrives.
- Calibrating your sprinkler system to deliver ½ to ¾ inch of water instead of 1 inch can save up to 15,000 gallons of water per 1,000 square feet per year. For a 5,000 square foot lawn, this equates to 75,000 gallons saved each year. See calibration instructions at: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00003389/00001>

Soil Amendments

- Adding compost to the garden greatly benefits plants by increasing nutrients and water retention in sandy soils.
- For vegetable gardens, add 25 to 100 pounds of compost per 100 square feet and work into the soil.
- For established shrubs and flower beds, rake back the mulch and apply up to 3 inches of compost to the soil surface.

Tips for Growing Tomatoes

They say gardening is cheaper than therapy, and you get tomatoes! But if you've been having trouble getting tomatoes, allow me to be your horticulture therapist and offer some tips for tomato gardening success:

- 1) **Pick the best varieties for Florida.** Select varieties that are resistant to known pests and diseases (including fusarium wilt and nematodes).
- 2) **Determinate or Indeterminate?** Determinate "bush" or "patio" tomatoes grow to a determinate size, don't require pruning, and have fruit that ripen all at once over a period of 1-3 weeks, making them perfect for growing in containers and canning. Indeterminate "vine" tomatoes continue to grow and produce fruit throughout the season, and require staking and pruning to keep a tidy plant.
- 3) **Timing is everything.** Florida's warm weather means we can plant early. Start seeds in containers and transplant to the garden after the danger of frost—typically late March or early April here in north Florida. But don't plant too late! Some varieties need time to grow and produce fruit before temperatures soar. When night temps begin to average 80°F, cherry and grape types will continue to flourish but large-fruited varieties will not set fruit.
- 4) **Provide ideal growing conditions.** Tomatoes need at least 4 to 6 hours of sun per day, slightly acidic soil (pH 6.2-6.5) amended with organic compost and prefer to be mulched.
- 5) **Plant deep & remove flowers.** Encourage deeper rooting by removing the lower leaves and burying stems up to the plant's second true set of leaves. Roots will form along the buried stem. Remove flowers present at planting time to promote leafy growth instead of fruit at this early stage.
- 6) **Provide support.** Wire cages or stakes and twine are both popular supports for indeterminate varieties. Install cages soon after planting so as not to disturb the plant's roots.
- 7) **Avoid high nitrogen fertilizers.** Too much nitrogen encourages foliage at the expense of fruit. Consider using a slow-release product to provide a low, continuous supply.
- 8) **Water efficiently.** Apply no more than 1-2 inches of water per week. Drip irrigation is preferred because it delivers a precise amount of water and keeps water off the leaves which is important for disease prevention.
- 9) **Prune to keep plants tidy, manipulate fruit size, speed ripening and reduce diseases.** Suckers that grow from leaf axles (where leaf meets stem) can be removed. With fewer leaves, plants are less dense, have improved airflow and less disease. Removing lower leaves that touch the ground also prevents disease. When cold temps threaten fall tomato crops, topping plants will speed ripening.

UF/IFAS Extension
Baker County
presents

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



11th annual

Spring Garden Festival

Agricultural Center Arboretum
1025 W. Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny FL

Saturday, April 13, 2019

9 am - 2 pm

plant
SALE

KIDS
Activities

gardening
EXHIBITS

FREE
ENTRY

Florida-Friendly
Landscaping
ADVICE

LOCAL
VENDORS

Info:
(904)
259-3520

The Foundation for the Gator Nation
An Equal Opportunity Institution

Spring Garden Festival

Master Gardener Plant Sale 🌸 Sneak Peak



Butterfly Vine

Showy flowering vine — up to 12' tall with support — Full to partial sun — Bright yellow, orchid shaped flowers — Blooms spring to fall — Seed pods are shaped like butterflies



Coral Honeysuckle

Florida Native — Pollinator-friendly perennial vine — Hummingbird magnet — Red tubular flowers — Berries attract songbirds — up to 15' — Full sun or partial shade



White Swamp Milkweed

Florida Native — Pollinator-friendly perennial — Larva host plant for monarch, queen and soldier butterflies — Showy white flowers — Perfect for wet areas in the landscape — 1-3' tall & wide



'Siskiyou Pink' Gaura

Pink flowers flutter like butterflies above red-tinged foliage — Full sun — Blooms spring to fall — 2-3' tall & wide — Drought tolerant



Mexican Sage

Pollinator-friendly perennial — Woolly purple blooms with fuzzy grayish leaves — Long blooming season — Drought tolerant — Deer resistant — 4-5' tall & wide



Indigo Spires Salvia

Pollinator-friendly perennial — Spikes of purple-blue flowers — 3' tall & wide — Full sun — Flowers spring through fall — Perfect for mass planting or containers — Good cut flower



Samantha (Lemon Swirl) Lantana

Pollinator-friendly perennial — Sterile cultivar — Bright yellow blooms — Variegated foliage — 1-2' tall & wide — Full sun — A beautiful plant even without blooms!



Dark Knight Bluebeard

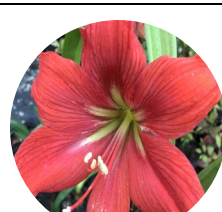
Pollinator-friendly perennial — Blue-purple flowers in clusters — Fragrant gray-green foliage — 2' tall & wide — Full sun — Blooms in summer — Good for mass planting or containers



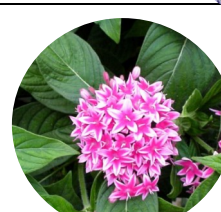
Heirloom
Roses



Autumn
Sage
(Red &
Pink)



Amaryllis
(Mixed
Colors)



Starburst
Pentas



Save the Date for Camp Cherry Lake!!

June 24-28, 2019

4-H Camp Cherry Lake "Adventure is Out There, Arrggh!"

Open to all youth ages eight to 18, as of June 1, 2019.

Deadline to register: June 17th, must be enrolled as a 4-H member by April 1st for member prices.

Early registration is due May 3rd: Member cost \$230; Non-Member cost \$260.

Late registration is due after May 3rd: Member cost \$250; Non-Member cost \$280.

Price includes all meals, transportation to and from camp, along with a t-shirt and daily canteen. Payment plans are available upon request. Payment secures registration. Contact us by phone: 904-259-3520 or email slben-nett@ufl.edu for more information on registration.



Adventure is Out There!

Camp counselors and CITs, ages 13+, are needed at 4-H Camp Cherry Lake, June 24th through the 28th. Counselors do not have to be 4-H members to participate. Counselors will receive 6 hours of training to prepare for service, and after camp will receive 40 community service hours. Counselor training dates are May 18th from 10am-4pm at Camp Cherry Lake from 10am-4:30pm, transportation and lunch provided.

County Events is March 16th at 10 am, at the Sanderson Community Center.

District Events is March 28th from 6-8pm in Alachua County.

Sign up Now for Clovers & Colors SPIN Club!

This club will meet every Monday from 4-6pm only in the month of April. Come learn about the various types of art!

Schedule

04/01– Sketching &
Color Theory

04/08– Acrylic Painting

04/15– Dirty Pour

04/22– Watercolor Painting

04/29– Art Show & Sale

Time: 4-6pm

Cost: \$25 per person

Location: 4-H Class-
room



To register, call 259-3520 to get your name on the list and pay at the Extension Office. Space is limited to 14!



**4-H Clubs
Need Help!**



We need people to help teach subjects at club meetings. If you or someone you know is knowledgeable about chickens, rabbits, cows, or arts & crafts, please contact Shaina at the Extension Office at 259-3520.

4-H Club Meetings & Events

- **Cloverleaf Cloggers**—Sanderson Community Center, Every Thursday 6-8pm
- **Livestock Club**— Sanderson Community Center, every 4th Tuesday at 6pm
- **County Council**— March 19th, 5-6pm, Baker County Extension Office, Wear painting clothes!

March 16– County Events, 10am

March 23– Tractor Supply 4-H Discount Day

March 28– District Events, Alachua, 6-8pm

Barnyard Bulletin

By:
Alicia Halbritter,
Agriculture Agent



NORTH FLORIDA LIVESTOCK
AGENTS GROUP INVITES YOU
TO ATTEND:

UF | **IFAS Extension**
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



NORTH FLORIDA
LIVESTOCK AGENTS GROUP

Equine Academy

March 30th 9am-2pm

\$25 Adult, \$5 Child. Lunch Included!
Pre-Registration Required, \$50 walk up registration

Registration begins at 8:30

Baker County Fairgrounds,
5567 Lauramore Rd, Macclenny, FL 32063

Topics to Include:

Worms & Germs

Equine Nutrition

Saddle Fitting

Farrier Science

and also...

Brunswick Grass

Bit Selection

Emergency Health Care

Pasture Fertilization

Manure Management

Purchase Tickets:

<https://tinyurl.com/y8xjb7os>

Pay with Check or Cash:

Call Alicia Halbritter

904-259-3520

