



Baker County Extension Service Monthly Newsletter

May 2011

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Dear Extension Friends,

Spring is in full swing in Baker County. We appreciate all of the involvement by the community in programs that we have offered so far this year. We will continue to offer programs in various topic areas throughout the year, so please take a look at the calendar inside. I mentioned this last month, but with the absence of rain we are definitely under threat from wildfires, so please take all precautions to prevent wildfires. If you have specific questions about burning, contact our County Forester at (904) 259-5128. As always, if we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Davis, Ph.D.
County Extension Director / Ag Agent



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Highlights in Horticulture

By:

Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent

Species Spotlight: 'Little Gem' Magnolia

When it comes to trees, the Southern Magnolia is considered a gem of the south. But these giants are often too big for landscapes. If you love magnolias, but are limited on space, consider planting a 'Little Gem' Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem').

The 'Little Gem' is a cultivar (man-made variety) of Southern Magnolia that grows slow and stays compact, reaching a height of only 30 to 35 feet with an 8 to 12 foot spread. Its upright growth habit is more typical of a multi-stemmed shrub than a single-trunked tree, and forms a dense, dark green oval or pyramidal shape, making it suited for screen or hedge planting.

The leathery, shiny leaves are shed as new foliage emerges in the spring. The large, slowly-decomposing leaves are sometimes considered to be messy or a nuisance to clean up, but can be raked and used as mulch.

In late spring and sporadically throughout the summer, huge, 8-inch-diameter, fragrant, white blossoms open to perfume the entire garden. Fuzzy brown cones follow these blooms, ripening in fall and winter to reveal bright red seeds which are used by a variety of wildlife.

If moist, organic soils are available, these trees will thrive in full sun and hot conditions once established. If irrigation cannot be provided periodically, plants located in partial shade for several years after planting seem to grow better. This tree is very drought tolerant when grown in areas with plenty of soil for root expansion, but only moderately drought tolerant in restricted-soil areas or in areas with poor, dry soil. Southern Magnolia prefers acid soil but will tolerate a slightly basic, even wet or clay soil.



Whiteflies on Citrus

Whiteflies are common pests of citrus and are easy to identify if you know how to find them.

Adult whiteflies look like tiny white moths, and readily fly away from the plant when you shake the foliage. The immature whiteflies (called nymphs) are oval shaped and flat, and are somewhat transparent to whitish in color. Nymphs can be found hiding on the undersides of leaves on infested plants.



Magnified pictures of the adult whitefly (above) and nymphs (below).

If you find that your citrus has a whitefly infestation, carefully examine whitefly nymphs for evidence of parasitism by a small wasp. If the wasp has found your tree, you should see whitefly nymphs that contain the larva or pupa of the wasp or an emergence hole may be visible on a nymph.



Some whiteflies may also be attacked by naturally occurring fungi (shown below) that appears as orange spots.



If you find evidence of the wasp or the fungus, no chemical control is needed. Just keep an eye on your plant and let nature do the work!

If you aren't fortunate enough to have nature's help, consider an insecticidal soap or oil spray (such as neem oil) that is safe for people and the environment.

Living Well in Baker County

By:
Melanie Thomas,
FCS Agent

Health & Nutrition: Food Allergies

A food allergy is an acquired hypersensitivity reaction to what is normally considered a safe food. Food allergies occur more often in children than in adults: 5-8% of those age 4 or under and about 1-4% of adults are affected. Together, about 11 million Americans suffer from some degree of food allergy. Those with severe reactions may experience what is known as anaphylaxis or *anaphylactic shock*. Annually, around 30,000 people receive life-saving emergency treatment and 150 fatalities occur.

While most food allergies in adults are caused by a small group of foods or food products, early in life food allergies can be caused by a wider variety of foods. About 90% of reported food allergies in children under the age of four are caused by: dairy products, tree nuts, eggs, wheat and wheat products, peanuts, or soy and soy products.

Dairy, eggs, and soy allergies are commonly outgrown; peanut allergies are almost never outgrown. As an adult, “the big eight” foods (and their products) account for 90% of food allergies: cereals containing gluten (wheat, rye, barley, oats, spelt, or their hybridized strains and products), crustaceans, milk, eggs, tree nuts, fish, soybeans, and peanuts.

What causes food allergies?

A true allergy is caused by a person's immune system reacting to a food when first eaten. The body “remembers” that food and, when it is eaten again, the immune system overreacts in an excessive and potentially life-threatening way.

Although often misdiagnosed as a food allergy, food intolerance is different. Symptoms of food intolerance usually involve discomfort after eating the causal food, such as bloating, abdominal pain, and sometimes diarrhea. Specifically, food intolerance is due to a problem with a person's metabolism, *not* their immune system. Lactose intolerance, for example, is caused by the inability to produce the digestive enzyme (lactase) that breaks down the sugars found in milk and other dairy products (lactose).

Studies suggest that 10 to 20% of adult Americans incorrectly believe that they or someone in their family has a food allergy. Proper medical authorities should be consulted for confirmation and guidance.

Allergic reactions to food may cause symptoms within seconds of consumption, or the symptoms may take up to several hours to develop. Symptoms can occur locally, or can be spread over the body or in multiple locations. Redness, itching, and swelling (inflammation) are the most well known and commonly associated symptoms, although several other types of symptoms are possible.

Symptoms associated with the digestive tract may include any one or more of the following:

- itching/tingling of the lips, palate, tongue, or throat;
- hoarseness and sensation of tightness in throat;
- vocal impairment or difficulty speaking;
- swelling of the lips or tongue;
- abdominal pain or cramps;
- nausea and/or vomiting; or
- diarrhea.











The greatest danger of a hypersensitivity reaction, or anaphylactic response, is the possibility that air passageways will swell closed and suffocate the victim, or that the victim will go into shock, a state of decreased blood flow that is potentially life-threatening.

Managing food allergies

If a person has an allergy to a particular food, any meal with that food present, even as a flavoring, may cause an allergic response. If a person is allergic to peanuts, they will be sensitive to the consumption of any food that has peanuts or peanut products (peanut butter, peanut oil, chopped or diced peanuts, etc.) as an ingredient. Treatment or processing of a food does not affect its ability to cause an allergic response. It is important to carefully read food labels and ingredient lists if a person has a known food allergy.

May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 	5 	6 	7
8	9	10 Northeast District Faculty Meeting—Extension Agents will be out of the Office	11	12 	13 	14
15	16 	17	18	19	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.





Upcoming Programs & Events


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


 **May 4 Forest Stewardship Workshop / Hike**—Tree and plant identification. 9am—3pm, Morningside Nature Center, Gainesville, FL. This program will give landowners an opportunity to identify some of the tree, shrub and herbaceous species on their forest properties. \$10 registration includes lunch and materials. Register online at <http://fsp-workshop050411.eventbrite.com/>


 **May 4-6 60th Annual Beef Cattle Short Course** at the Hilton, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. Registration information and materials can be found at <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/beef/index.htm>

 **May 12 Forest Stewardship Workshop: Manage the Pond, Mind the Creek**, 9 am - 3 pm ET, UF-IFAS Highlands County Extension Office, 4509 George Blvd, Sebring, FL 33872.. Topics will include fish pond management, Best Management Practices for protecting water quality and habitat considerations for water features. Details and registration on-line at: <http://fsp-workshop051211.eventbrite.com/>

 **May 12 Lee County Natural Areas and Woods Workshop in Fort Myers**, UF-IFAS Lee County Extension Office, Fort Myers, FL. Program will focus on non-native invasive species management. CEU's offered for many pesticide license categories. \$15 fee if register on-line, \$20 at the door. For info, contact Martha Avila, (239) 533-7506, avilamc@leegov.com . Details and registration at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/AgNatRes/AgNatResHome.shtml>.

 **May 13 2010-11 FL-GA Game Management Update Series, Balancing Timber & Wildlife for Upland Game**, Cobey Property, Gadsden County, FL. Cost is \$10, lunch and materials included. Pasture to plantation in 20 years... a field tour of the Cobey family's "Mary Land" is an excellent opportunity to see what a landowner can accomplish with consistent, aggressive management! Details and registration on-line: <http://flgagmus.eventbrite.com/>

 **May 16 Pest Management in the Vegetable Garden**, 6 pm—7 pm, Baker County Extension Office. Dealing with pests in the vegetable garden is a gardener's toughest challenge! Learn how to manage weeds, insects, diseases and nematodes in the vegetable garden to increase your harvest! Call (904) 259-3520 to register by Thursday, May 12th. The class is free but seating is limited.

 **May 31 Tri-County Beef Meeting**, Meeting begins at 6 pm. Baker County Extension Office. Registration is \$5 per person. Please contact The Baker County Extension Office at 904-259-3520 or the Bradford or Union County Extension Offices for more details and to register. Please confirm your registration by May 27, 2011

4-H Events for May

May 26th— 6:00p.m. Livestock Club - Extension Classroom. All kids who have attended 4 meetings from November 2010 to May 2011 are eligible to show market animals (according to the Market Animal Contract). Participants will need to double check at the May 26th meeting to make sure they're eligible before purchasing hogs or steers .

4-H Horsepower Club—Call club leader, Amy Horne, for meeting details.

The Clover Chronicle

By:

*Michael Davis,
Extension Director*

Changes Coming to Baker County 4-H

I would like to inform everyone involved with Baker County 4-H that Ms. Renee Gore will be leaving the University of Florida / IFAS / Baker County Extension Service on May 19, 2011. During this time of transition, I, Michael Davis, the County Extension Director will oversee the 4-H program in Baker County. I am in the process of meeting with current club leaders to discuss club activities, finances and any other issues that may arise.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Renee for her service and dedication to the 4-H program here in Baker County and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

As of this writing, clubs will still meet as usual and I ask that all club leaders please contact me with questions about activities, fund raising, etc. We at the Extension Service deeply appreciate the involvement of the community with 4-H and our youth and we want to continue in that direction. Please contact the Baker County Extension Office if you have any questions or concerns.



Michael A. Davis, Ph.D.
County Extension Director



More Than You Ever
Imagined!



4-H CAMP CHERRY LAKE

The theme is "The Myth, The Legend, The Camp". Baker will be camping with Madison and Nassau counties again this year, **the week of June 27th - July 1st**. It promises to be a ton of fun. Kayak and Canoeing; Swimming, Environmental Education topics, Archery, and Photography are a few of the classes to choose from. Night time camp fires, singing, and line dancing galore.

Camp is \$200.00 to cover all the expenses, plus canteen, T-Shirt and bus travel. We have devised a budget system to help you with the costs of camp. Make checks to Baker County 4-H in the name of your sponsored child for Camp Cherry Lake.

Download registration forms from our website at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu> or pick up a registration packet at the Baker County Extension Office.

Sponsorships and donations are also accepted if you would like to help sponsor a child in need. Contact the Baker County Extension Office for additional details.



Weed Species Spotlight -

Sicklepod

Sicklepod (*Cassia obtusifolia*) is also known as coffeebean. This plant is common throughout Florida and the southeastern United States. It is native to the tropical regions of North, Central and South America. The plant has erect stems and light green oval leaves that grow in pairs. Yellow flowers are present when the plant is mature. Seed pods of sicklepod are round and contain brownish, angular seeds.



Control:

General Control: Any herbicide containing 2,4-D will control sicklepod. Early treatment is recommended. Mature plants should be pulled from the ground to prevent animal poisoning.

Control in peanuts: Sicklepod has historically been a very difficult weed to control. To date, there are no preemergence herbicides available to control sicklepod. Likewise, postemergence control options are also limited. The most efficient herbicide program for sicklepod is paraquat at cracking, with or without Basagran, Storm or 2,4-DB, followed by Cadre. This program will often provide effective, season-long results. If sicklepod escapes late in the season, 2,4-DB will suppress the growth and development of emerged plants.

Control in cotton: Cotoran has traditionally provided good control of sicklepod when applied preemergence. However, the application rates required for acceptable sicklepod control often results in low levels of cotton injury. Additionally, Cotoran applied preemergence will not control sicklepod for the entire season.

Postemergence applications of glyphosate or Envoke provide greater than 90% control of sicklepod. Envoke cannot be applied prior to the 5th leaf stage. All postemergence directed herbicides, except Cobra and MSMA, will also provide greater than 90% sicklepod control.

Sicklepod
(*Cassia obtusifolia*)



Image Source: (top) John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org , (bottom) Gerald Holmes, Valent USA Corporation, Bugwood.org

Source: Weeds in Florida, SP 37, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: May 1991. Revised: December 2004. Reviewed: February 2009. David W. Hall, Vernon V. Vandiver, and Jason A. Ferrell.

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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).



Lawns and Gardens Calendar



Mowing: Always mow at the correct height for your turf species to prevent stress and improve drought tolerance. St. Augustine: 3-4 inches, Centipede: 2 inches, Bahiagrass: 3-4 inches, Bermudagrass: 1-1.5 inches, Zoysia: 1-2 in.

Watering: Both lawns and landscapes only need 1/2 to 3/4 inch each time you irrigate. Set out catch cans (such as tuna cans) to monitor the amount of time it takes to apply this amount. Then adjust your irrigation timer or schedule as needed.

Planting: Replace declining winter annuals this month with new annuals and perennials that can take the heat and drought while providing a nice long display of color. Angelonia, Beach Sunflower, Blackberry Lily, Gaura, Pentas, Plumbago, Porterweed, Society Garlic, and Zinnias to name a few.

Black Sooty Mold: Avoid the black sooty mold on Crape Myrtles and other plants this year, by scouting regularly for aphids, whiteflies, mealybugs and scale. These insects can be found feeding on the undersides of leaves where they produce a substance called honeydew that drops to the leaves below. This honeydew is the perfect medium for sooty mold to grow and severe insect infestations can cause entire plants to turn black. Early detection and spot treatment (treating infected spots on the plant instead of the entire plant) with insecticidal soaps or horticultural oils, and continuing through the summer will prevent the sooty mold all together.

Roses: Prevent and manage black spot by irrigating with drip irrigation, which helps keep the foliage dry and less susceptible to fungal infection. Fungicidal sprays are also available to prevent the spread. However, choosing a low-maintenance rose that is resistant to black spot is a better management strategy than constantly spraying with fungicides. Other common pests of roses include aphids, spider mites, caterpillars, and thrips. Frequently monitoring will help you detect early infestations.