



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,

Thanks to everyone who attended our Spring Garden Festival and congratulations to our raffle winners! We are now gearing up for summer and that means summer camps! Check out what's in store and register early to secure a spot.

Sincerely,

Alicia

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

Garden Festival Raffle Winners



Kids Gardening Gift Basket:
Layla, Aiden, & Dacey Williams

Fertilizer Raffle: Josh Taylor

<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

- April 30** **Stone Fruit Field Day**, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, UF/IFAS Plant Science Research and Education Unit, West Hwy 318, Citra, FL. Learn about peach production, low-chill varieties, insect and disease management, fertilization, and tour field plot. Free event. Please RSVP by April 23rd at stonefruitfieldday2019.eventbrite.com or call Staci Sanders at 352-591-2678.
- April 30** **Annual Forage Grazing & Management Workshop**, 9:00 am 12:00 pm, UF/IFAS NFREC—Suwannee Valley, 7580 CR 136, Live Oak, FL. Learn about forage options, extending grazing, fertilization, herbicide use, and establishment. Walking tour through planted cool season forages. \$5 pay at the door. RSVP to Justina Dacey at 904-530-6356 or email to: jdacey@ufl.edu
- May 4** **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day**, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, St. Mary's Shoals Park, Macclenny, FL. Free Admission! Free Give-Aways! Landowner assistance, kids activities, and demonstrations. Local, state and federal agencies will be on hand.
- May 18** **4-H Camp Counselor Training**, 10-4, Camp Cherry Lake, Madison, FL. Lunch and transportation provided.
- June 10-13** **4-H Semi-Homemade Cooking Camp**, 9:00am to 2:00 pm, Baker County Extension Office (Ag Center). \$60 Registration; Ages 8+. Deadline to register: May 28th. This camp will use pre-packaged and home cooking to make meals that can easily be made.
- June 24-28** **4-H Camp Cherry Lake**, Madison, FL. Ages 8+. Early registration due May 3rd: Member \$250/Non-Member \$260; Late registration by June 17th: Member \$270/Non-Member \$280. Spend a fun and educational week away from home!
- July 8-11** **4-H Chopstix Camp**, 9:00am to 4:00pm. Meet at Baker County Extension Office. \$60 Registration; Ages 10+. Deadline to register: July 1st. This field trip camp will explore Asian cuisine and culture from the farm to the table!
- Jul 30-Aug 2** **4-H University**, University of Florida, Gainesville. \$260; Ages 14-18. Deadline to register: May 28th.

Highlights in Horticulture

By:
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent



2

Garden Q & A

Pears With Orange Hair?

Q: My small pear fruits have abnormal white and orange growths on them. What should I do?

A: When developing pears look like they are sprouting hair, this unfortunately means they are infected with a fungal disease called Cedar-Quince Rust. The disease affects pear, apple, quince, mayhaw and other related plants, as well as evergreens like cedars and junipers. For the fungus to survive, it must move from an evergreen host like a cedar to a deciduous fruit tree host. Although black spots develop on the plant within days of infection, orange tubes called aecia won't develop for weeks after infection. Next, spores are released from the aecia located on the fruit tree and travel by wind to infect new cedar plants. The infected cedars will not show symptoms until the next growing season, but they can manifest as galls or orange ooze present under bark. If you have cedar trees, look for an orange jelly-like growth which is the most obvious stage of the fungus.



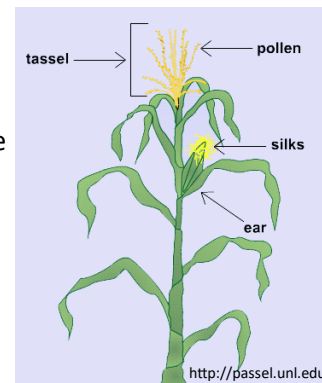
This fungus can infect the leaves, young branches and fruits of a pear tree, but most people only notice symptoms on the small, developing pears. While the fruit is ruined for this year, you should attempt to remove as many infected twigs and fruit as possible, removing infected plant material completely from the area. When it comes to management of this disease, you can avoid planting pears around cedar trees and vice versa. However, cutting down all the cedar trees in your neighborhood is not a recommended control measure. For recurring problems (year-after-year infections), there are several fungicide chemicals that can be applied in early spring. When the blossoms of the trees are swelling you can apply a preventative fungicidal spray containing sulfur, captan, chlorothalonil, or mancozeb. While fungicidal sprays do not cure existing conditions, they can be useful for preventing infection. Please read all pesticide labels before application, since there are pre-harvest limitations for some products.

Corn Not Producing

Q: My corn didn't produce last year. What I am doing wrong?

A: Sweet corn performs best in fertile, well-drained soils in full sun. Planting dates for north Florida are from February to April (depending on location and weather). Beyond these basics, there are two main things to know about growing corn—they are heavy feeders and are wind pollinated. To increase yields, use ammonium nitrate nitrogen to push more growth on the plants before ears begin to form. The general recommendation is to top-dress 40 pounds of nitrogen per acre before the tassel appears in the whorl. This equates to 120 pounds of 33-0-0 ammonium nitrate fertilizer per acre. For backyard garden plots, the amount of ammonium nitrate needed is reduced to 2.75 pounds per 1,000 square feet or approximately 0.3 pounds per 100 square feet of planted corn.

This extra growth allows each plant to produce additional ears. As grains of pollen are shed by the tassels that grow from the top of plant, the wind helps the pollen reach the strands of silk that emerge from newly formed ears. To make sure silks are adequately showered with pollen, you'll need to grow corn in blocks of short rows rather than 1-2 long rows.



Seminole Pumpkin

Q: What can you tell me about the Seminole Pumpkin and when should I plant my seeds?

A: While generally rounded and dull orange, Seminole pumpkins can vary in appearance—even on the same plant. The inner flesh tastes like butternut squash, but sweeter. In north Florida, pumpkins are generally planted in early July. But because Seminole pumpkins take the summer heat and humidity in stride, seeds can be planted in spring. The Seminole people planted the vines below trees, which served as natural trellises, but feel free to use your garden trellis of choice. These plants require little maintenance. Water early in the morning and keep mulch away from the base of the vine to avoid fungal diseases. Within 60 to 90 days, you will be ready to harvest your first crop but your vine should continue producing pumpkins up until the first frost of winter. Seminole pumpkin can be used as a substitute for other pumpkins or butternut squash when cooking. You don't have to limit yourself to eating the flesh of these pumpkins, though. Young, green fruits can be harvested and eaten without peeling. The beautiful yellow flowers are also edible (raw, stuffed, or fried).

[Seminole pumpkin information adapted from <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/edibles/vegetables/seminole-pumpkin.html>]

WHAT TO PLANT IN NORTH FLORIDA



MAY



FLOWERS

Ageratum Amaranthus
 Angelonia Balsam
 Begonia, wax Celosia
 Crossandra Coleus
 Dahlberg Daisy*
 Dusty Miller Gaillardia
 Gomphrena Impatiens
 Marigold Moss Rose
 Melampodium
 New Guinea Impatiens
 Ornamental Pepper
 Pentas Rudbeckia
 Salvia Torenia
 Tropical Sage Verbena
 Vinca Zinnia

*Indicates annual that typically begins declining in July as temperatures soar.



VEGETABLES

Beans, lima Eggplant
 Okra Peas, southern
 Sweet Potato Swiss Chard

PLANTING & FERTILIZING TIPS

Most Florida soils benefit greatly from the addition of organic matter such as compost.

A good rule of thumb is to add 2-3 inches of organic matter such as compost, to the soil surface. Next sprinkle a controlled-release fertilizer and thoroughly mix it into the top 6 inches of soil.

Controlled-release fertilizers provide a continuous nutrient supply over an extended period of time. For best results, apply at the labeled rate or based on your soil test results.

Fruit Care Calendar for North Florida

To be used as a guide when caring for fruit and nut trees in the home garden. All fertilizer recommendations are for optimum growth and fruit production. Gardeners may choose to apply less fertilizer than the recommendation, but should never apply more. When referring to the age of a plant, consider year 1 to be at planting or the first year after planting.

MAY

Tips for Growing Fruits

Most edibles require at least 6-8 hours of full sunlight a day and prefer well-drained, slightly acidic soil.



Does the plant require cross-pollination or is it self-fertile??

If not self-fertile, you will need 2 or more plants to produce fruit.



Avoid low-lying areas to minimize flood injury and frost injury to flowers and developing fruit.



Select recommended varieties based on pest/disease tolerance, cold tolerance and required chilling hours.

Correct spacing is key for optimum growth, health, and fruit production.

FERTILIZING



Blackberries (Newly Planted)

During their establishment year, newly planted blackberries can be fertilized late this month using 1/4 lb. (1/2 cup) of 10-10-10 with micro-nutrients per plant, or up to 5 lbs. (10 cups) per 100 feet of row.



Chestnuts (Year 1)

Apply 1 lb. (2 cups) of 10-10-10 fertilizer per tree.



Peaches, Nectarines, Plums (Year 1)

Fertilize late this month using 1/4 lb. (1/2 cup) of 12-4-8 fertilizer with micro-nutrients per tree.



Peaches, Nectarines, Plums (Year 2+)

Fertilize using 1-1.5 lbs. (2-3 cups) of 12-4-8 fertilizer with micro-nutrients per tree.



Pineapple Guava

Flowers appear in early May and have attractive thick, fleshy, edible petals that are sweet and tasty. This plant does not require much fertilizer. If applied, fertilizer should be low in nitrogen to maximize fruit production and prevent excessive vegetative growth.

PRUNING

Apples & Pears



Young trees are trained to a central or modified leader system during the winter months. Prune during the growing season to remove dead or diseased limbs, or to shape the tree.

Olives

Olive is generally considered an alternate-year-bearing species, and flowering occurs on new growth emerging from the growth of the previous season. Therefore pruning in off years during flowering to remove non-flowering branches can increase fruit yield for home gardeners.

Plums, Peaches, & Nectarines



In the dormant season, major pruning involves maintaining the overall height and open center of the canopy. Lighter pruning for the same reasons can be accomplished during the summer, after fruit is harvested.

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 deliver them to the front Extension Office. For large quantities, please place them at the back fence gate near the greenhouse. Thank you!



Counselors Needed!

Do you know a high schooler that needs community service hours? Serving as a camp counselor is a fun way to gain experience while earning service hours! Camp counselors and CITs, ages 13+, are needed at 4-H Camp Cherry Lake, June 24 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 is May 18th from 10am-4:30pm at Camp Cherry Lake, transportation and lunch provided.

Community service is one of the best ways to give back! Service learning provides students with opportunities to use newly acquired skills and knowledge in real-life situations in their own communities. In addition, service to the community provides a sense of belonging and contribution for youth, that sustains individuals even when the work is difficult. Being a camp counselor is a great way to give back to the community and learn workforce preparation skills, leadership skills, teamwork, and responsibility. Research has shown that involvement in a camp counselor program has a long-term, positive impact on the lives of participants.

4-H Camp Cherry Lake "Adventure is Out There, Arrggh!" is 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 \$250; Non-Member cost \$260. Late registration is due after May 3rd: Member cost \$270; 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 slbennett@ufl.edu for more information on registration.

4-H Sponsorships Sought

With repairs being made to the Ag Center, this year we are looking for program sponsorship rather than holding a public auction. A contribution would provide partial and complete scholarships for children to attend events, ranging in cost from \$110 to \$275, like Camp Cherry Lake, 4-H Legislature, 4-H University, as well as help fund volunteer screenings and school enrichment projects.

Levels of 4-H Sponsorship:

- ◆ Emerald: \$300+ ◆ Gold: \$200-\$299 ◆ Silver: \$100-\$199 ◆ Bronze: \$1-\$99

We are requesting that contributions be received by Monday, June 10, 2019 to ensure scholarships can be given for this summer. Please mail or drop off contributions to the Extension Office, 1025 West Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063. All contributions are tax deductible and a thank-you letter will be mailed to you affirming the contributed amount. Please make checks payable to Baker County 4-H Association.

If youth who are planning to attend any 4-H events would like to help gather donations, please contact Mrs. Shaina.

4-H Club Meetings & Events

- **Cloverleaf Cloggers**—Sanderson Community Center, Every Thursday. **Beginners 6-7pm; Intermediates 7-8pm. No summer meetings**
- **County Council**- 4-H Classroom, **May 21 @ 5pm**
- **Livestock Club**— Register Farm, 12846 Turner Cemetery Road Sanderson, FL 32087, **May 28th @ 6pm**
- **Counselor Training @ Camp Cherry Lake May 18th 10-4:30pm**
- **Initial Market Animal Weigh-In**— Baker County Fairgrounds, **June 8th, 7am-9am**



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.

Barnyard Bulletin

By:
Alicia Halbritter,
Agriculture Agent



Coyotes: Nature or Danger?

Coyotes have been slowly making their way into Florida over nearly 60 years and have been documented in all 67 counties. Often, residents fear coyotes over concerns of them preying on outdoor pets, having rabies, or posing a threat to humans.



A pair of coyotes (male + female) will occupy one territory, so although it may sound like a pack is haunting the woods around you, it likely is a small number. Litters usually contain 2-12 pups at birth but only 50% survive until adulthood. Once reaching adulthood, litters will leave their parents territory in search of their own mate.

Coyotes diet is made up of 1/3 insects, 1/3 fruit & veggies, and 1/3 meat. Coyotes are opportunistic feeders and will generally not go after prey that is larger than them or difficult to catch. To avoid interactions with coyotes, bring pets in at night, secure any potential food sources, and have motion sensor lights in key areas.

Coyotes, luckily enough, pose little to no threat to the residents of Baker County. Coyotes are small (weighing 28 pounds on average), timid, and are often easily scared off by loud noises or any aggressive motions. Feeding coyotes, whether intentionally or unintentionally, is illegal. We do not want coyotes to view us as a food source. **Feeding coyotes a homemade poison is also illegal, and inhumane.**



Hazing coyotes is an option, but unless an animal is posing a serious threat to you, removal is not generally recommended. Hazing can be done by creating any type of loud noise, whether it be nuts & bolts in a shaker bottle, a gun going off, or anything to scare off the animal. Removal of a pair of coyotes from a territory will only open that territory to another pair, coyotes are very good at repopulating an area. Complete removal of coyotes is almost impossible.

Coyotes in Florida

Coyotes live in urban, suburban and rural areas throughout Florida. Follow these tips to avoid conflicts.

FEEDING COYOTES is **ILLEGAL**. THEY WILL LOSE THEIR FEAR of HUMANS.



SECURE GARBAGE CANS. CLEAN UP PET FOOD and FALLEN FRUIT.



SECURE LIVESTOCK in PREDATOR-RESISTANT Enclosures.



KEEP PETS IN ENCLOSED AREAS. WALK DOGS ON A SHORT LEASH.



Coyotes are an important part of the landscape in Florida. They help maintain healthy ecosystems by managing populations of rodents, insects and other small animals. By preventing conflicts, we can better coexist with coyotes and other wildlife.

Average Florida **COYOTE WEIGHS 28 lbs.**



Coyote Tracks
Foot Track: 2.5" long
Hind track: 2" long
Tracks will show considerable variations depending upon the condition of the ground (dry, mud, dirt, sand, etc.) and movement of the coyote.



If you ever view a coyote acting suspiciously you can report the incident to FWC Wildlife Alert at 888-404-3922.

Having issues with nuisance wildlife? Give me a call to discuss potential remedies at 904-259-3520 or email at alicia1221@ufl.edu

NATIONAL WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY

FREE Admission • FREE Give Aways

Saturday, May 4th

9:00AM to 2:00PM

St. Mary's Shoals Park



BOOTHS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO LANDOWNERS:

- Baker County Firewise
- UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners
- Ready, Set, Go!
- State Farm Insurance
- 911 Address Signs (EMS)
- Florida Forest Service
- BCSO Everbridge Register
- Baker County Rocks

SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- Turbo Draft From Nearby Pond
- Trolley Ride: Forest Management Activities
- Prescribed Fire Demonstrations

FUN ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS:

- Smokey Bear
- Bounce Houses
- FFS Wildfire Prevention Clowns
- Sparky The Fire Dog
- Wildland Firefighter Games

LOCAL, STATE & FEDERAL AGENCIES

Fire Apparatus • Forestry Tractors & Equipment
BCSO Command Center • Firewise Trailer • More

