



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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NOVEMBER GARDENING TIPS

WINTER ANNUALS

FLORIDA SUGARCANE SYRUP

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CHILI COOK-OFF FLYER

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)

2023 Baker Bulletin Newsletter Survey

You are invited to complete a brief survey regarding the usefulness of the Baker Bulletin newsletter. To show our appreciation for your input, you may include your contact information at the end of the survey to be entered into a drawing for this year's gift basket!



<https://forms.gle/SzengSTgBiKkD7Jm7>

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

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

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

 Check out our Livestock
Google Site!

Programs & Events

- Online **Butterfly Gardening** (Online Class — **Free!**) [Register here.](#) Learn the basic garden design elements for a successful butterfly garden.
- Online **Growing Blueberries & Blackberries** (Self-Paced Course — **Free!**) [Register here.](#) Variety selection, planting, and maintenance, plus a section on raspberries.
- Online **Growing Strawberry Plants** (Self-Paced Course—**Free!**) [Register here.](#) Includes variety selection, planting, and care through the strawberry growing season.
- Online **Selling Backyard Poultry Products** (Self-Paced, Online Course) **\$20** [Register here.](#) Learn how to start a business selling chickens, other poultry, or poultry products.
- Online **Backyard Chicken Class** (Self-Paced, Online Course) **\$15** [Register here.](#) A beginners guide to raising chickens.

Highlights in Horticulture

By:
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent



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November Gardening Tips

Flowers

- Prepare flower beds by adding 2-3 inches of organic matter such as compost to the soil surface. Next sprinkle a controlled-release fertilizer at the rate indicated on the label and thoroughly mix it into the top 6 inches of soil. Organic matter helps the soil retain moisture and controlled-release fertilizer provides a continuous nutrient supply over an extended time span (e.g., 3–4 months).

Trees & Shrubs

- Rake falling leaves and pine straw to use as mulch in the garden. Mulch should be 2-3 inches thick after settling. Avoid piling the mulch directly at the base of trees and shrubs and never apply mulch in a volcano-like fashion which contributes to trunk rot and can even repel water.

Lawns

- Spot treat winter sprouting weeds while they are still young to avoid a larger problem later. Bring weed samples to the Extension Office for identification and customized management advice (free of charge) based on your lawn type.

Landscape Irrigation

- Turn your irrigation clock to manual starting this month and let your plants tell you when it's time to water. Growth is slowed during the cooler months and plants generally require less water. For landscape plants, wait until they show the first signs of wilting. For lawns, only water when leaf blades get that blue-gray color or start folding in half length-wise. Of course, once your lawn goes dormant, it won't need much, if any, supplemental irrigation.

Moss Problems?

- As the leaves begin to drop this time of year, many of us start to notice what may appear to be problems on our trees. Spanish moss, ball moss, and lichen are all commonly mistaken to be harmful in some way, although these organisms seldom need any attention at all. They do not kill or rob the trees of nutrients; they only need a place to live. For more information on lichen, visit <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/EP/EP48500.pdf>

Cold Weather Prep

- Look for tree wraps this month at your favorite garden supply stores. Tree wraps protect young, thin-bark trees and fruit tree graft unions from winter cracking and damage. Foam pipe insulation can also be used and is often preferred for citrus grafts. Remove wraps in early spring before the buds swell to avoid inhibiting growth.

Did You Know? Reducing irrigation during the winter (November—March) by watering once every other week saves about 8,259 gallons per 1,000 square feet. For a 5,000 square foot lawn, that equates to over 41,000 gallons of water saved!

Winter Annuals

Keep the garden colorful this winter with annuals that enjoy the chilly weather.

COLOR YOUR LANDSCAPE: NOVEMBER

WHAT TO PLANT:

ALYSSUM - BABY'S BREATH
CALENDULA - DELPHINIUM
DIANTHUS - DUSTY MILLER
FOXGLOVE - HOLLYHOCK
ORNAMENTAL CABBAGE/KALE
PANSY - PETUNIA
SNAPDRAGON
VERBENA
VIOLA



Hollyhock



Delphinium

*Annuals to plant in North Florida



Preparing the bed:

- Remove grass and weeds by hand or smother with black plastic or thick newspaper.
- If herbicides are necessary, a post-emergent (spray) can be applied 2-3 weeks before planting; a pre-emergent (for sprouting weed seeds) can be used prior to planting unless planting flower seeds.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of 6" or more.
- Amend the area with at least 3" of organic compost to provide a slow release of nutrients and increase water and nutrient holding capacity.
- pH should be between 5.5 to 7.0—a soil pH test through the Extension Office is available for \$3.

Fertilizing:

- Many options - slow release products (Osmocote, Nutricote, Dynamite), organic fertilizers (bone meal, blood meal), and general purpose fertilizers (such as 16-4-8) - all applied at the labeled rate.
- Controlled-release and organic fertilizers can be incorporated into the top 6 inches of soil at planting.
- General purpose fertilizers should be broadcast (top-dressed) after planting but before applying mulch.
- Container plants will need higher phosphorous levels; consider using a 10-10-10 instead of 16-4-8 fertilizer.

Barnyard Bulletin

By:
Alicia Halbritter,
Agriculture Agent



Florida Sugarcane Syrup

Florida produces over 34 million pounds of sugarcane, adding sweetness to our every day life. While today's sugarcane is planted, managed, and harvested with massive mechanical equipment, its roots go way back to old Florida. The sugar producing plant has been grown in the state since the 1500's. One favorite product of local sugarcane growers is syrup.

1. Growing and Harvesting

The first step to growing sugarcane is choosing the property variety. Most small gardeners will choose to plant chewing or syrup making varieties. If you intend to make syrup it's important to plant a syrup making variety.

Purchase "seed-cane" for the variety you selected and plant them at the onset of winter or before a killing frost. Plant the cane in a sunny location with good drainage, the soil should stay moist but not drown plants.

Plants are typically ready to harvest in November or December. Cut the cane near the soil surface with a sharp knife or lopping shears Trim off the top and remove leaves.



2. Pressing

After the cane is harvested it is ready to press. You can use a commercial press to extract the liquid from the plant material. If you do not have access to a press, cut the cane in 2 inch sections to prepare for boiling.

3. Boiling and Bottling

After pressing, the juice is ready for boiling. Like any syrup making process, the sugary liquid must be heated to remove the water and thicken it up. A wider kettle allows for more evaporative surface and a faster process. Boil to 227 degrees, skimming the top of impurities during the process. Test the syrup thickness by letting it drip off your utensil, remove from heat when it reaches the desired temperature and thickness. Scoop the syrup into a cheese-cloth covered bucket to remove any final impurities. Bottle as soon as it is safe to do so.





Lucky Clover Chroni-

By:
Shaina Spann,
4-H Agent



Holiday Bake-Off & Tailgate Par-

Join us in your team's favorite shirt/sweater and play tailgate games!

The holiday season is upon us and it is time to start planning what we should bake for the Holiday Bake-Off competition! The purpose of the Holiday Bake-Off is to encourage adults and youth to work together on a project. This is not a traditional 4-H contest where a 4-H member must do all the work themselves. Mixes, pre-cooked, and non-cooked items may be used in the finished product. Work should be done by the youth with supervision, directions and help of an adult. Entries **must** have a festive holiday appearance.



- Cakes
- Pies
- Gingerbread
- Breads
- Honey Recipes
- Decorated Cakes
- Candies
- Brownies/Bar Cookies
- Appetizers
- Specialty Items
- Cupcakes
- Cookies
- Cookies
- Lite Recipes

There are 13 categories:

Only one entry per child per category. Cloverbuds will not be judged, but will receive a participation ribbon. Products will be judged on appearance, taste and display. Overall winner of each category receives the coveted Golden Spoon! Overall winner of the Bake-off receives the honor of Giant Golden Spoon and prize! All entries (after awards) will be sampled at the Holiday Party.

Item drop-off will be from 8:00am-9:30am.



4-H Friendsgiving

November 16, 2023 6-7pm
Baker County Extension Auditorium
Livestock Families: Bring a side dish
Cloverbuddies Families: Bring a dessert

Please RSVP by 11/09/23 by calling the office or emailing Ms. Shaina.

November 10

PROJECT RECORD DUE

If not turned in, youth will not be eligible for awards OR to show in the fair next year.

Chili Cook-Off Competition 12/04
Entries are \$5 each for all ages. Be sure to bring an ingredient list with your entry.

4-H Club Meetings & Events

- November 06– 4-5pm, Cloverbuddies
- **November 10– PROJECT RECORD DUE**
- November 16– 6-7pm, Friendsgiving

We need volunteers for Space, LEGO, and Livestock Clubs! Please reach out if you're interested.

For Baker County 4-H to grow we need more opportunities for youth and for that to happen, we need more volunteers!



Chili COOK-OFF

Fundraiser

\$5 FEE PER ENTRY

Entries due December 4th, 5-6pm

Judging begins at 6pm!

Baker Co. Ag Center

1025 W. Macclenny Ave. 32063

All ages welcome!

Please provide ingredient list & recipe at registration.

**WINNER RECEIVES
COOKING GIFT BASKET!**



**SCAN CODE TO
REGISTER!**

For more information, contact Shaina Spann, 4-H Agent
904-259-3520 slbennett@ufl.edu

The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. For disability accommodations such as sign language interpreters and listening devices, please contact Shaina Spann, slbennett@ufl.edu, 904.259.3520 at least 2 weeks in advance. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.

4-H Holiday Bake-Off Entry Form
Entry Form Must Accompany Each Item
Due December 4th, between 8:00-9:30am

Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Age: _____

Item Category: _____

Item Name: _____

Ingredients/Recipe: _____
