



## 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 8:30 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,

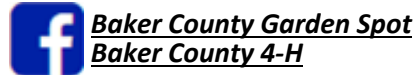
To help local families in need, the Baker County Extension Office will be collecting non-perishable food items during October and November. Please help us by donating jars of peanut butter and other food items for a Thanksgiving feast! We also invite our readers to take a brief survey on our newsletter. The information gathered helps us to improve our newsletter and demonstrate our value to the local community. As always, we thank all of our Extension friends for being a supporter of Baker County Extension programs!

Sincerely,

Alicia Lamborn, County Director  
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

Take Our Survey & Enter to Win A  
Gardener's Gift Basket!

<https://forms.gle/gFkqVf1PqTAnWoua8>



## Upcoming Programs

**October 21 Sustainable Vegetable Production Workshop: Alternative and organic methods to complement conventional grower practices.** 9:00 am – 2:30pm, 2556 West Highway 318, Citra, FL 32113. Also accessible online via Zoom. Lunch and field tours provided for in-person attendees. CEUs available. FREE Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/SustainableVegWorkshop10-2021>



### Strawberry Gardening Class (Self-Paced, Online Course — Free!)

Class topics include how to select, plant, and grow strawberries in the home garden. [Register here](#) to access our classroom which includes a 25-minute instructional video, gardening resources, and strawberry recipes. As part of our annual fundraiser, you may also order 'Camarosa' strawberry plants by calling (904) 259-3520.



### 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*



## October in the Garden

### Flowers

- Plant cool season annuals like dianthus, calendula, petunia and snapdragon.
- Bulbs and bulb-like plants for fall planting include amaryllis, calla, iris, lily, narcissus and watsonia. For something a little different, try Snowflakes (*Leucojum spp.*) and Star-of-Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum spp.*).



*Snapdragons*

### Trees & Shrubs

- Spring is the most popular time for installing new ornamentals in the landscape but planting in the cooler weather during fall will make it easier to get roots established.
- Minimize pruning on spring flowering shrubs and trees by removing only broken, damaged, or rubbing branches. Heavy pruning or shearing this late in the year will reduce the number of blooms next spring.

### Lawns

- If you did not fertilize in September, then you'll want to wait until spring rather than applying it this late in the year. Encouraging the grass to continue growing at a time when it should be preparing to go dormant can result in winter kill.
- Continue hand pulling perennial weeds that are producing seed. Chemicals are generally less effective at this later stage of development.
- If winter weeds were a problem last year, treat problematic areas with a pre-emergent herbicide beginning in early October with air temperatures reach 65-70°F for 4-5 consecutive days. The cooler weather will trigger weed seed germination for troublesome weeds like annual bluegrass, burweed, and chickweed.

### Vegetables & Herbs

- Prepare the fall vegetable garden and begin planting cool season crops. Using transplants from a local garden center will get the garden off to a fast start, but seeds offer more varieties to choose from. For a list of Florida-proven performers, See Vegetable Gardening in Florida: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)



### Fruits & Nuts

- Plant strawberries this month for a spring harvest. Recommended varieties for north Florida include Camarosa, Festival, Camino Real, Sweet Charlie, Chandler. If planting bare root, plant deep enough so that no roots are exposed but the crown is not covered. Begin harvesting fruit as early as January by protecting flowers and fruit during freezing weather.
- Blueberry plants may need a boost of fertilizer this month. Apply a 12-4-8 fertilizer with 2% magnesium based on the age of the bushes (see page 3).

## Tips for Florida-Friendly Yards

*Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) means using low-maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices to have a beautiful landscape or bountiful garden that saves you time, energy, and money.*

**Time to Change Your Irrigation Timers:** With the change in weather, irrigation system timers should be turned completely OFF and used only if needed since plants need less water during the cooler months. Many established plants can survive on rainfall alone and scheduled watering only wastes money and water. If dry conditions during fall and winter have plants looking thirsty, run the system manually rather than on a set schedule.



**Eliminate Invasive Plants:** Invasive exotics can aggressively out-compete native plants, contributing to habitat loss. Learn to identify problematic plants and dispose of them carefully. And never plant them!

**Attract Wildlife with Snags:** If they do not create a hazard, leave snags (trunks of dead trees) in place. Many birds use snags for perching, nesting, and feeding.



**Shoreline Vegetation:** The land along the water's edge is called the riparian zone and is often a wetland. If there is no buffer zone along your waterfront, add Florida-Friendly, low-maintenance plantings to help filter out pesticide and fertilizer runoff from adjacent lawn and landscaped areas. Shoreline vegetation also attracts native wildlife and reduces erosion.



**Composting:** Composting can be as simple as placing leaves, grass clippings, and small cuttings behind shrubs or in a hidden corner of the yard and letting nature take its course. Homemade or manufactured compost bins allow you to easily incorporate kitchen waste, such as vegetable and fruit scraps, eggshells, and coffee grounds. For more information about composting, visit <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>.



## How to Write a Thank You Letter

For youth who sell animals to a buyer at the fair here is a helpful guide for how to write a thank you letter. Remember —this person or business did NOT have to do this for you! If they purchased your auction animal, or, if they donated toward your animal, you are grateful. (Put yourself in their place: If you were the one who donated your hard-earned money, you would want someone to thank you!) So, sent them a letter, in your BEST handwriting: Thank you cards are okay, if you include the following in it. Letters should always be handwritten.

The person or business receiving the letter must know:

- (1) who and what you are, (2) what you did to get their donation, and (3) just how grateful you are!

Thank You Letter Guide:

- (1) Give you full name, and your age or grade, and that you are a 4H member who is in the \_\_\_\_\_ project, for \_\_\_\_\_ years, and a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ club. If you are acquainted with this donor, remind them how they might know of you.
- (2) Tell or remind them that they were the successful bidder for your animal (what kind, its weight, etc), or, that you won an award (name the award and the category that the award was for) that they donated to, and how you won that honor.
- (3) Most adults LIKE to read letters from young people. Tell them what you plan to do with this money or award. Tell them about you 4H plans for next year and a little something about yourself. And tell them how thankful you are to have received this “wonderful” thing that they did for you.
- (4) It is also good to mention something like: “I am glad that donors like you contribute to the 4H program and help provide and incentive to all 4H members to make the best better.” Or, “I am happy to have a buyer like you who helps make the 4H youth auction program possible.” Or, better yet, use your own words to tell this person or business that you are grateful that people like them do contribute to a very important and worthwhile youth education program.
- (5) At the bottom of you letter, write: “Sincerely,” and sign your name.

Unsealed, Addressed, & Self Addressed thank you letters are due to the Extension office by:  
November 30, 2021, exhibitor will forfeit \$50 of check amount  
December 21, 2021, exhibitor will forfeit \$100 of check amount  
January 6, 2022, exhibitor will forfeit \$200 of check amount

# Thank You!

### In honor of Farm-City Week, the Baker County Extension Office and Baker County Farm Bureau are collecting non-perishable food items for families in need.

Canned Yams	Fried Onions
Stuffing	Macaroni and Cheese
Gravy	Corn Bread Mix
Green Beans	Canned Pie Filling
Cream of Mushroom Soup	Graham Cracker Crust

Drop-Off Locations:  
Baker County Extension Office - 1025 W. Macclenny Ave.  
Baker County Farm Bureau - 539 S. 6th Street  
Please drop off items by November 15, 2021



### 4-H Club Meetings & Events

- Cloverleaf Cloggers—TBD
- Baker’s Busy Bees—October 19, 2021 @ 6pm, Extension Office Classroom
- Livestock Club—October 26, 2021 @ 6pm, Auditorium: 2020-2021 Celebration

# Barnyard Bulletin

By:  
*Alicia Halbritter,*  
*Agriculture Agent*

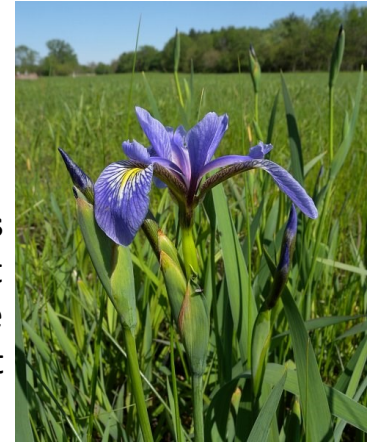


## Planting Pond Buffer Zones

Vegetation around the waters edge can help increase the attractiveness of the pond, filter pond water, and reduce runoff, among other ecological benefits. These plants are suitable for Baker Counties plant hardiness zone of 8b.



**Arrowhead**  
Height: 3.5 feet  
Light: Full sun to partial shade  
Water Depth: 6"-12"



**Blue flag Iris**  
Height: 2 feet  
Light: Partial shade  
Water Depth: Moist to wet



**Duck potato**  
Height: 3 feet  
Light: Full sun to partial shade  
Water Depth: 6"-12"



**Fragrant Water Lily**  
Height: Floating  
Light: Full sun to partial shade  
Water Depth: 30"-36"



**Golden canna**  
Height: 3 feet  
Light: Full sun to partial shade  
Water Depth: 12"-18"



**Pickerelweed**  
Height: 3 feet  
Light: Full sun to partial shade  
Water Depth: 6"-18"



**Sand cord grass**  
Height: 4 feet  
Light: Full sun  
Water Depth: Dry to wet



**Swamp Lily**  
Height: 2 feet  
Light: Partial shade  
Water Depth: 3"

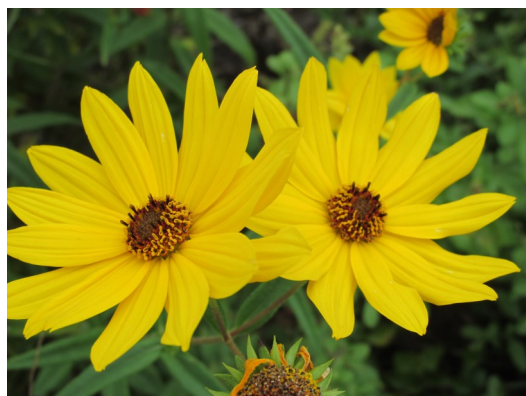
# Florida's Native Flora & Fauna

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.

## Swamp Sunflower

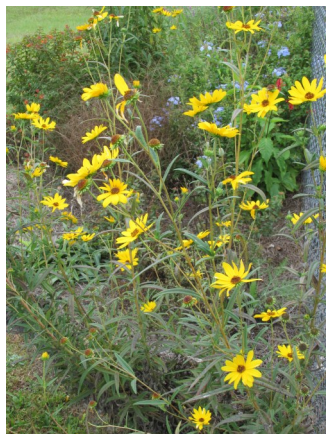
This Florida native sunflower grows in low wet areas throughout the state, but also performs well in drier landscapes. It is sometimes called Narrow-leaf Sunflower, which describes its long, narrow leaves that are rough like sandpaper. However, the plant is better known for its tall stems that display profuse numbers of golden yellow flowers



in late summer and fall. It is root hardy in areas across the southeastern United States, and spreads by underground rhizomes to form large clumps.

The Swamp Sunflower reaches up to 6 feet tall when blooming and flowers attract bees and butterflies to the garden. Since clumps may become quite wide over time, plants should be spaced 3-5 feet and given plenty of room to grow. When root masses become too large, they can be divided in spring or autumn and shared with friends.

Like other sunflowers, this plant performs best in full sun. Plants grown in partial shade will not produce as many flowers, will become leggy and may fall over without support. As its name implies, the Swamp Sunflower thrives in moist areas, but will also thrive in well-drained garden soils if watered during dry spells. You can cut the plant back in early June to make it bushier when it blooms later in the year. Then cut back the dead stems after flowering to maintain a neater appearance.



Photos by: A. Lamborn, UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

## Green Lynx Spider

The Green Lynx Spider (*Peucetia viridans*) is large, conspicuous, and bright green with red spots and white markings. Other unique features include their peculiar hexagonal eye arrangement and the prominent spines on their legs. This spider doesn't spin a web but can be found hanging out on a variety of plants in search of insect prey where its green coloration helps it stay camouflaged.

Although willing to prey on beneficial insects, this spider helps control crop damaging insects including moths and their larvae that are pests of corn, cotton, and cabbage.

Females construct one or more egg sac per year, typically in September and October, which they guard continuously and vigorously. Usually, she hangs upside down from the sac and will rush at anything that threatens it.



A female Green Lynx Spider protecting her egg sac. Photo by: A. Lamborn, UF/IFAS Extension

This species is the only spider that can squirt or spit venom, aside from spitting spiders (Scytodidae). Although the Green Lynx will aggressively attack its insect prey, they very seldom bite humans. Bites usually occur when a female sitting on her egg sac perceives a threat. But not to worry, these spiders are not venomous and are considered medically harmless.

Adapted and excerpted from: [GREEN LYNX SPIDER, PEUCETIA VIRIDANS](#) and [Beneficials in the Garden: Green Lynx Spider](#)

# Extension Tidbits

## FLORIDA CITRUS AND YOGURT CAKE



### Ingredients:

2 Florida oranges, 1 zested and 1 sliced thin  
 2 Florida grapefruit, 1 zested and 1 sliced thin  
 4 Florida Key limes, 2 zested and 2 sliced thin  
 2 ½ cups Florida sugar  
 1 cup plain (whole fat) Greek yogurt  
 1 stick unsalted butter, softened  
 6 eggs, room temperature  
 1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract  
 3 cups all-purpose flour  
 ½ teaspoon baking soda  
 Pinch of sea salt

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Zest 1 orange, 1 grapefruit and 2 Key limes into a small bowl and set aside. Slice the other half of the citrus into thin rounds and set aside. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light, fluffy, and pale yellow in color. Add vanilla and eggs one at a time, blending thoroughly after each egg. In a separate bowl combine the flour, baking soda, and salt. Add the dry ingredients to the creamed mixture, alternating with the yogurt. Mix until combined, being careful not to over-work the batter. Gently fold in the citrus zest. Pour into a well-oiled bundt pan or two loaf pans. Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool for 30 minutes. Using a plate or cake stand, place the sliced citrus around the outer edges, overlapping as you go. Gently unmold the cake and place on top of the sliced citrus. Serve warm or room temperature. You could even frost this cake with orange icing for a pumpkin theme! Recipe from: <https://www.followfreshfromflorida.com/recipes/florida-citrus-and-yogurt-cake>

2021

## PEANUT BUTTER CHALLENGE

Oct. 1 - Nov. 24

Donate unopened jars of peanut butter at the UF/IFAS Extension Baker County office.

The Florida Peanut Butter Producers Association and Florida Peanut Federation match donations. All peanut butter donations go to local food pantries to help feed families in need.

From October 1 through November 24, support our local producers and people in need in our community by generously donating to the Peanut Butter Challenge.

