



## The Baker Bulletin

A  
Baker County  
Extension  
Service Monthly  
Newsletter

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TAKE THE SURVEY &  
ENTER TO WIN THIS  
YEAR'S GIFT BASKET !!!**



*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)

### County Agents

**Alicia Lamborn** Horticulture Agent

**Shaina Spann** 4-H Youth Development Agent

**Alicia Halbritter** Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

 <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 **Growing Strawberries** (Self-Paced 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. Plus, you can order strawberry plants as part of our annual fundraiser by calling (904) 259-3520.
- Oct 13 **Cold Tolerant Citrus Production Workshop**, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, Perry FL. [Register here.](#)
- Oct 14 **Conservation & Integrated Crop-Livestock Systems** (In person & Online—Free!) UF/IFAS NFREC, Quincy FL. Request agenda and RSVP to: sheejageorge@ufl.edu or albertin@ufl.edu
- Online **Gardening for Pollinators** (Self-Paced Course — [Register here](#) thru November 1st) Learn about pollinators from UF/IFAS experts during this 8+ hour course which includes optional activities.
- Online **Selling Backyard Poultry Products** (Self-Paced, Online Course) Learn how to start or improve a business selling eggs, meat, or live poultry in the state of Florida. [Register here.](#)

# Highlights in Horticulture

By:  
Alicia Lamborn,  
Horticulture Agent



## Growing Strawberries

**Planting Dates:** October and early November

**Characteristics:** Strawberry plants are low-growing and spread into clumps via runners. Strawberries are grown as annuals here in Florida.

**Plant Spacing:** 10 to 18 inches (in the ground); 8+ inches (container grown)

**Planting:** Two types of transplants are used to begin fruiting fields in Florida, bare-root plants and containerized transplants. Bare-root plants are the most widely available type of transplant but are more difficult to establish in the field. These transplants require overhead sprinkler irrigation during the hottest part of the day for the first 7 to 12 days after planting. This reduces wilting and leaf loss while the plant develops a root system sufficient to support itself. Containerized transplants require much less water for re-establishment. Regardless of the type of transplant used, it is important to make planting holes approximately 2 to 3 inches deep to allow covering all roots, while setting the crowns of transplants at soil level. Buried crowns will result in weak plant establishment, whereas over exposed crowns will dehydrate quickly and could reduce plant population.

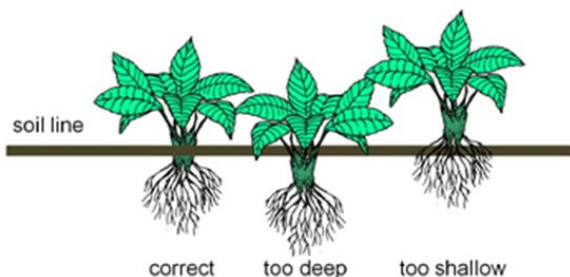


Illustration courtesy of Colorado State University Extension

While strawberries are traditionally planted in rows on raised beds, there are many other space-saving ways to grow them which include hanging baskets, containers, grow boxes, buckets and strawberry barrels. Growing strawberries in these alternative systems also makes it convenient when cold weather arrives since these can easily be moved to a warmer location to protect developing flowers and fruit.

**Fertilizing:** Strawberries benefit from slow-release nitrogen which releases a steady supply of nutrients to the plants and increases nutrient absorption. Look for commercially available products that contain at least 30-50% slow release nitrogen. A 10-5-10 (N-P-K) formulation or similar garden fertilizer with micronutrients is recommended for in-ground plants at a rate of 2 pounds per 10 feet of row (1/2 pound spread evenly across the top of the bed & the remainder applied in a narrow band 1 inch deep along the middle of the bed below the drip irrigation line). For container grown strawberries, a 10-10-10 or similar product with micronutrients can be applied based on the product label directions.

**Cold Weather:** The shorter days and cooler nights of winter initiate flower formation and the fruit is ready for harvest about a month after flowers are formed. The plants will withstand our freezing temperatures, but protecting early blossoms can provide fruit as early as January. If a frost or freeze is predicted, covering the plants with a lightweight blanket will help prevent the flowers or fruits from getting damaged. Container grown plants can be moved to a warmer location for the night.

**Harvest:** The first fruits should be ready to pick in January, roughly 90-110 days after planting. The harvest season usually stretches through May with fruit yield peaking around March. If you have trouble with birds or rabbits stealing fruit, try using netting to protect the plants. Pick berries when at least ¾ of their surface has turned red. Once picked, the berries will not sweeten any further. Freshly picked strawberries generally keep for only a few days, so be sure to eat them soon after harvest. If you have a surplus of berries, you may freeze or preserve them.

MASTER GARDENER  
PROGRAM

**STRAWBERRY  
PLANT SALE**

*going on now!*

**10 plants for \$5  
or  
50 plants for \$20**

Limited quantities available.

You will pay at pickup (mid-October),  
but unclaimed orders will be offered  
to those on the waiting list.

**Call now to place your order:  
(904) 259-3520**

# Barnyard Bulletin

By:  
*Alicia Halbritter,*  
*Agriculture Agent*



## Develop Next Years IPM Plan

IPM, or Integrated Pest Management is important to every operation, whether livestock or crop. A pest is anything that we don't want to be there, this could be a plant, disease, or an insect/animal. If you had trouble with pests on your operation this year, it's important to plan preventative measures for next year now.

### Recordkeeping

The first step to planning is knowing what you are dealing with. Be sure to keep accurate reports of what pests you were dealing with, at what rates, and what has previously done to control them. Recordkeeping is essential to determining what strategies are effective and which might need to be altered. Records can also help determine economic impacts of IPM plans to see if a strategy is financially feasible to continue.



### Prevention

Prevention of pests is a better management strategy than trying to control an exploding problem during the growing season. Prevention may include, planting cover crops to prevent weeds, rotating crop species that aren't susceptible the pest issues you have, mowing, or cleaning equipment to prevent the spread of weed seeds or disease spores. As the old saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. These methods may be more labor intensive, but in the long run they will make it easier to control a pest.

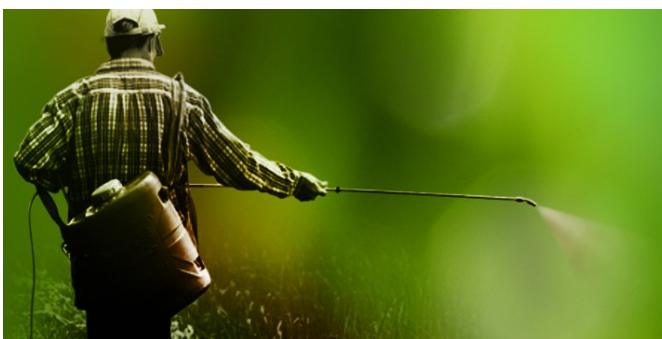
### Scouting and Monitoring

Once the growing season is upon us, it's important to scout and monitor fields for pests. Whether you are driving through pastures looking for weeds or walking through corn fields scouting for insects, it's a crucial IPM strategy. The sooner you can catch a problem, the easier it is to control. Plan for at least weekly scouting trips, more often if your pest problem has been larger in the past. Once a pest problem reaches the economic threshold for control, act quickly and eliminate the population.



### Pesticides

If pesticides are a part of your IPM plan, make sure to accurately identify your pest first. Pesticides can be an effective, although sometimes expensive, control measure for pests. Accurate pest ID, proper application rate, and timing of application are crucial to getting the most bang for your buck. Misuse of pesticides is not only illegal but can have drastic effects on your operation by contributing to pesticide resistance. Take extra care to pre-plan which pesticides you'll use for each pest in case they occur.



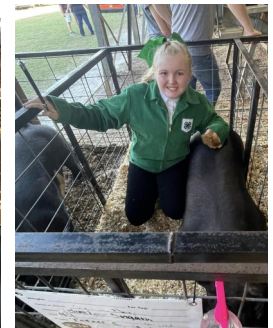


## 2022, That's a Wrap!

The 2021-2022 4-H year is over! It was awesome being able to have traditional 4-H programming after COVID limiting what we could do. We had a fun year with all kinds of activities! This year's fair was such a success! Thank you to our leaders, volunteers, and families who helped make it happen. Here are some snapshots from the week.



Left to Right, clockwise: Connor Crews showing his rabbit. Marley Thompson and family manning the Extension Booth with bees. Jessa Hilson, Allison Bennett, and Brenna Hilson showing their goats. Grady Fish with his chicken. Schaelynn Dugard with her hog. Swine showmanship class. Autumn Dugard showing her rabbit. Sarah Surrency showing her steer. Allison Surrency and Jessa Hilson after the beef show.



### 4-H Club Meetings & Events

#### Kick-Off & Awards October 25, 2022, 6pm

Bring a friend to come to learn about 4-H! There will be club booths, games, and food. Please come see what 4-H opportunities we have to offer. Awards will follow immediately.

#### Holiday Bake-Off December 5, 2022, 8-9am & 6pm

Our annual Holiday Bake-Off will take place on Monday, December 5th. This allows for time over the weekend to baker your goodies! This is a partnership encouraging youth and adults to work together and make a sweet treat! Participants can enter one item into each category (will be released at a later time).

# 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.

## Florida Maple

The Florida Maple (*Acer sacharum* var. *floridum*) is a deciduous tree that reaches a maximum size of 50 to 60 feet tall, although 20 to 30 feet is more common.



The round to oval growth habit makes the Florida Maple an ideal landscape specimen or park shade tree.

The leaf shape more closely resembles the Canadian Maple than the common Red Maple. The edges of the leaves turn under slightly giving them a distinct appearance.

Growing in full sun or partial shade, Florida Maple will tolerate a wide variety of soil types but is not salt-tolerant. Established trees look better when given some irrigation during dry weather.



While leaves will eventually fall, most remain in the central portion of the canopy through winter which may give the tree a somewhat unkempt appearance. However, a few brown leaves during winter are well worth the reliable fall color display of yellow, orange, and red.

Photos by: Alicia Lamborn, UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

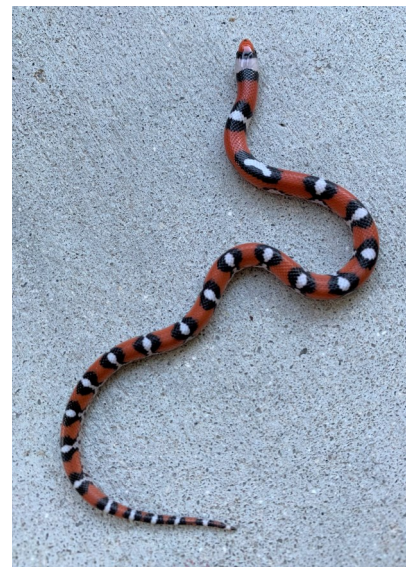
## Scarlet Snake

The Scarlet Snake (*Cemophora coccinea*) is a harmless, non-venomous snake found throughout Florida except the Florida Keys. It does not pose a danger to people or pets. When captured, it rarely if ever bites in defense but may release a foul-smelling musk from a pair of glands in the base of the tail.

Scarlet snake habitat includes pine flatwoods, dry prairies, hardwood hammocks, and sandhills. Rarely seen due to its secretive nature, this snake lives mostly underground or in/under logs and other debris.

Scarlet snakes feed primarily on reptile eggs, but may also prey upon small snakes, lizards, frogs, salamanders, rodents, and invertebrates.

The Scarlet snake is a thin-bodied snake reaching up to 20 inches long. The small, pointed head is red with a distinct light-colored band just behind the eyes. Red and whitish-gray blotches are separated by black down the length of their body. This gives the appearance of rings, but these bands do not connect on the snake's belly.



The Scarlet Snake should not be confused with the Scarlet Kingsnake (which has rings entirely around its belly) or the venomous Eastern Coral Snake (which has a rounded black snout and typically has red rings that touch yellow rings).

Identify a Florida Snake: <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-snake-id/>

Photo by: Alicia Lamborn, UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

# Extension Tidbits

## EDIBLES TO PLANT IN October



	North	Central	South
 <b>Easily Survives Transplanting</b>	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Strawberry, Swiss Chard	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Strawberry, Sugarcane, Strawberry, Swiss Chard, Tropical Spinaches	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Strawberry, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches
 <b>Transplant Carefully</b>	Celery, Mustard, Spinach	Celery, Mustard, Pineapple, Spinach	Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squash, Luffa, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach
 <b>Use Seeds</b>	Carrots, Onions (bunching), Radish, Turnips	Carrots, Onions (bulbing, bunching), Radish, Turnips	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Okra, Onions (bulbing, bunching), Peas (southern), Radish, Squashes, Turnips

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**Gardening SOLUTIONS**

For more information, please visit  
[GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu](https://GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu)

## 2022 Baker Bulletin Newsletter Survey

You are invited to complete a brief survey regarding the usefulness of the Baker Bulletin newsletter.



The information will be used for reporting purposes to help demonstrate the impact of Extension programs. You may also provide comments and topic suggestions for future editions.

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!



Take the survey: <https://forms.gle/ssyB52yWeGEokx6Y7>