



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,

We need your help. We hope that you enjoy reading our newsletter and invite you to take a brief survey. The information gathered helps us to improve our newsletter, demonstrate our value to the local community and secure funding for the Extension Office. Please respond promptly so we can see if this newsletter is meeting its goals. Thank you so much for being a supporter of Baker County Extension programs!

Sincerely,

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

Take Our Survey &
Enter to Win A Pollinator
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[Baker County Garden Spot](#)
[Baker County 4-H](#)

Search "Baker County
4-H" in your app store

Upcoming Classes & Events

- Oct 1** 4-H Open House @ National Night Out, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., City of Macclenny Park (Duck Pond). Stop by the 4-H table to learn about club opportunities.
- Oct 12** Farm to Family Beef Basics, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Baker County Extension Office. Limited spaces available. Bring the kids to this family friendly program and learn about the beef industry, cutting basics and safety, grilling techniques, plus more! Learn from Meat Science Expert, Dr. Chad Carr from UF and enjoy some delicious taste testing! (Lunch Provided) **\$20 per pair. Register here:** <https://farmtofamilybeef.eventbrite.com>



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Highlights in Horticulture

By: *Alicia Lamborn,*
Horticulture Agent



October Gardening Tips

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. We will also be adding Snowflakes and Star-of-Bethlehem to the arboretum's bulb garden this fall.

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 fertilizer in September, then you'll want to wait until spring rather than applying it this late in the year. Encouraging the grass to grow 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

- Add cool season crops to the garden. Using transplants from a local garden center will get the garden off to a fast start, but seeds offer more varieties to choose from. See page 3 for more information.

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).

Fertilizing the Vegetable Garden

Are you getting ready to plant the vegetable garden and wondering how much fertilizer to put out?

Use this guide:

| Fertilizer Grade | Amount to broadcast per 100 sq. ft. | Amount to band per 10 feet/row |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 6-6-6 | 3 lbs (6 cups) | 5 oz (< ¼ cup) |
| 10-10-10 | 2 lbs (4 cups) | 4 oz (½ cup) |
| 10-0-10 | 2 lbs (4 cups) | 4 oz (½ cup) |

- Broadcast fertilizer over entire garden before planting.
- Band fertilizer along plant rows at planting: 2-3" to the side & 1-2" below seed level or plant row.
- During the growing season, you may need to apply fertilizer 2-3 more times at half the banded rate shown in the table. Apply the fertilizer just beyond the outside leaves (edge of plant canopy).
- Slow release nitrogen fertilizer will reduce the number of fertilizer applications needed.
- A 10-0-10 fertilizer is a good choice because phosphorus is usually plentiful in Florida soils & therefore not generally needed.
- Soil test kits are available from the Extension Office. Testing the pH and available nutrients is recommended every 1-3 years so gardeners can replace only the missing nutrients and prevent over-liming.
- In addition to fertilizers, adding 25 to 100 pounds of compost or composted animal manure per 100 square feet is recommended, especially for sandy, infertile soils.

WHAT TO PLANT IN NORTH FLORIDA



OCTOBER

FLOWERS

- Alyssum
- Baby's Breath
- Calendula
- Dianthus
- Dusty Miller
- Foxglove
- Geranium
- Hollyhock
- Ornamental Cabbage/Kale
- Pansy
- Petunia
- Snapdragon
- Verbena
- Viola

VEGETABLES

- Arugula
- Beets
- Broccoli
- Brussels Sprouts
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Cauliflower
- Celery
- Chinese Cabbage
- Collards
- Endive/Escarole
- Kale
- Kohlrabi
- Lettuce
- Mustard
- Onions, bunching & bulbing
- Radish
- Spinach
- Strawberries
- Swiss Chard
- Turnips

PLANT SELECTION & FERTILIZING TIPS

Choose adapted varieties with resistance or tolerance to nematodes and common diseases.

Purchase healthy transplants that are free of insects and disease symptoms (such as leaf spots or blights).

RESOURCES :

Gardening with Annuals in Florida
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/files/MG/MG31900.pdf>

Plant flowers near your vegetable garden to attract beneficial insects that prey on pests.

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.

Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/files/VH/VH02100.pdf>

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.

SEPT. - DEC.

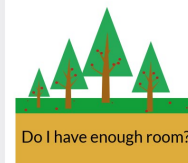
Tips for Growing Fruits

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.



Do I have enough room?

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

SEPTEMBER



Citrus
 Last month to fertilize citrus until February using a 6-6-6 or 8-8-8. Year 1: 0.5-1.25 cups; Year 2: 1.5-3 cups; Year 3: 3-5.5 cups; Year 4: 6.5-8.25 cups; Year 5+: 9-11.5 cups



Loquats
 Fertilize using 6-6-6, only as needed.



Persimmons
 Apply last of 3 applications of fertilizer using 1/2 to 1 lb. (1-2 cups) of 10-10-10 with micros per year of age. All 3 applications should not exceed 10-15 lbs. (20-30 cups) per year. If fruit drop is a problem, consider using a 5-10-10 or reduce fertilizer amounts.

OCTOBER



Blueberries (Newly Planted)
 Fertilize using 1 oz. (2 TBSP) per plant of 12-4-8 with 2% magnesium (Mg) or 1.5 oz. (3 TBSP) per plant if heavily mulched, spreading evenly over a 2-foot diameter circle.



Blueberries (Established)
 Fertilize with 12-4-8 with 2% magnesium (Mg). Year 2: Apply 2 oz. (4 TBSP) per plant spreading evenly over a 3-foot diameter circle. Year 3+: Apply 3 oz. (6 TBSP) per plant spreading evenly over a 4-foot diameter circle.



Strawberries
 Plant Oct. 1st to Nov. 15th for a Spring harvest. Incorporate 2 lbs. (4 cups) of a 10-5-10 fertilizer with micro-nutrients per 10 feet of row into the bed before planting. To increase nutrient absorption, 1/3 to 1/2 of all nitrogen should be in slow-release form. Incorporate 1/4 of the fertilizer evenly across the top of the bed with rake. Apply the remainder fertilizer in a narrow band 1 inch deep down the middle of the bed (above the drip or soaker hose, if they have been placed in the bed).

NOVEMBER



Pomegranate
 Use 8-8-8 or similar. Young trees: 2-2.5 lbs. (4-5 cups). Mature trees: 4.5-6.5 lbs. (9-11 cups). Excessive or late applications delay fruit maturity and reduce color and quality.

DECEMBER - No Fertilizing is Required

MORE INFORMATION

For additional information on fertilizing, pruning and other resources, visit the Fruits page of the UF/IFAS Baker County Extension website:
<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker/>

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.

To everyone that has already made a donation—we thank you!!!



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, send them a letter or thank you card in your best handwriting and include the following in it.

The person or business receiving the letter must know:

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

Thank You Letter Guide:

- 1) Give your full name, and your age or grade, and that you are a 4-H 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 your 4-H 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 4-H program and help provide an incentive to all 4-H members to make the best better." OR, "I am happy to have a buyer like you who helps make the 4-H 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 your letter, write: "Sincerely," and sign your name.

Unsealed, Addressed, & Self Addressed thank you letters are due to the Extension Office by:

- ◆ **November 22, 2019, OR** exhibitor will forfeit \$50 of check amount
- ◆ **January 7, 2020, OR** exhibitor will forfeit \$100 of check amount
- ◆ **January 31, 2020, OR** 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
Stuffing
Gravy
Green Beans
Cream of Mushroom Soup

Fried Onions
Macaroni and Cheese
Corn Bread Mix
Canned Pie Filling
Graham Cracker Crust



Drop-Off Locations:
Baker County Extension Office-
1025 W Macclenny Ave.
Baker County Farm Bureau- 539 S 6th St.
Please drop off items by November 18, 2019

Livestock Club August Report

The last meeting we had was at Heritage Park. We talked about fair requirements. We also talked about all members renewing their membership before the fair starts. Next, we handed out all fair project paperwork, tattooed bunnies and lastly, we signed paperwork.

—Submitted by: *Madelyn Robinson, Livestock Club Reporter*

4-H Club Meetings & Events

- **Cloverleaf Cloggers**—Every Thursday, from 6-8pm at the Sanderson Community Center.
- **County Council**- Will resume in February.
- **Livestock Club**— October 22, 6 pm, Sanderson Community Center. Thank you letters & community service meeting.

Barnyard Bulletin

By:
Alicia Halbritter,
Agriculture Agent



Fall Favorites

Pumpkins



The United States grows pumpkins on almost 66,000 acres, producing 1.5 billion pounds of usable pumpkins. On

average, a pumpkin grower can get 24,000 lbs. of pumpkin per acre.

Did you know pumpkins range in size from less than 1 pound to over 1,000 pounds!? Pumpkins are nutrient dense. Just one cup of cooked pumpkin provides more than 200% of the recommended daily intake of Vitamin A, 20% of vitamin C and more potassium than a banana.

Pumpkins are a lucrative crop, earning producers an average of \$2,000 per acre!

Corn

Corn is staple fall crop. Whether it be used for a corn maze, fall decorations, or in holiday meals, corn is prevalent during the fall.

Did you know Florida grows 22% of the sweet corn in the United States? Sweet corn has a value of over \$158 million for Florida producers! Field corn, used for grain products, has a value of \$24.7 million for the state.

Corn grown in Florida is generally reserved for the fresh market, but some is sent for processing, canning, etc.



Farm to Family: Beef Basics **Oct. 12th | 11am-1pm | Ag Center** **\$20 a pair | Limited Spaces**

Bring the kids to this family friendly program and learn about the beef industry, cutting basics and safety, grilling techniques, plus more! Enjoy a delicious meal, crafted by you during the course!

Get tickets here: <https://farmtofamilybeef.eventbrite.com>

UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

STRAWBERRY PLANT FUNDRAISER

'Camino Real' Strawberries

- A favorite for N. Florida gardens!
- Plants are small and compact
- Fruiting begins in late winter
- Good per-plant yields
- Large fruit with very good flavor

10 plants - \$5

50 plants - \$20

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Planting & growing instructions included.

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