



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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SEPTEMBER IN THE GARDEN

FALL LAWN CARE

IDENTIFY WEED SPECIES

4-H SAVE THE DATES

**NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA:
SPOTTED HORSEMINT & RIVER OTTERS**

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN SEPTEMBER

FLORIDA VEGETABLE PASTA

**STRAWBERRY PLANT /
CALADIUM FALL FUNDRAISER**

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



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.
- Online **Gardening for Pollinators** (Self-Paced Course — Enroll now thru November 1st) Learn about pollinators from UF/IFAS experts during this 8+ hour course which includes optional activities. Students will receive a certificate of completion after completing all required course elements. [Register here.](#)
- Online **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.](#)

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Highlights in Horticulture

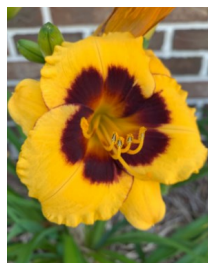
By:
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent



September in the Garden

Flowers

- Divide clumping perennial plants like daylily and amaryllis if they have become overcrowded. This will improve flowering and plant quality.
- Planting annual flowers that thrive in the heat can only be expected to grow until first frost. Consider waiting until October to plant cool season annuals for a fresh splash of color.



Witch's Wink Daylily
Credit: Alicia Lamborn,
UF/IFAS Extension

Trees & Shrubs

- 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.
- Don't overprune palm trees – remove dead leaves and flower/fruit stalks only. A properly pruned palm should have a round canopy, not a feather-duster crown.
- Scout ornamental plants for pests like scale, grasshoppers, caterpillars, and whiteflies. If treatment is needed, treat only the affected area and use a product that targets the pests and not your beneficial insects (like insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, neem and Bt).



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
- Herbs that can be planted this month include: basil, lemon balm, chives, fennel, sage, oregano and thyme.

Fruits & Nuts

- This is the last month to fertilize citrus trees. Use the following table to determine the amount to apply.

Tree Age (since planting)	6-6-6	8-8-8	10-10-10	Applications per year
1	0.5-1.5 cups	0.5-1.25 cups	0.5-1.0 cup	6
2	2.0-4.25 cups	1.5-3.0 cups	1.0-2.5 cups	5
3	4.0-7.0 cups	2.75-5.5 cups	2.25-4.5 cups	4
4	8.75-11.25 cups	6.5-8.25 cups	5.25-6.5 cups	3
5+	12.0-15.5 cups	9.0-11.5 cups	7.25-9.25 cups	3

- Fertilize persimmons using 1-2 cups of 10-10-10 with micro-nutrients. Double this amount for large, mature trees.

Fall Lawn Care

All plants, including turf, need a continuous supply of nutrients to grow properly. And while a dense thriving turf is the best way to prevent a weed invasion, some lawns may need a little extra help this time of year.

September

Winterize your lawn by mid-September using a fertilizer product containing equal amounts of nitrogen and potassium and no more than 2% phosphorus (such as 10-0-10, 15-0-15, or 18-2-18). Check the label to determine the appropriate amount to apply or divide 50 by the percent of nitrogen (first number on the bag) to determine how many pounds of fertilizer should be applied over a 1000 square foot area. Be sure to measure your square footage accurately so as not to over or under apply nutrients. If weeds are a problem, hand pull those that have started setting seed. Chemicals are generally less effective at this later stage of development.

October

If winter weeds were a problem last year, get ready to treat problematic areas with a pre-emergent herbicide beginning in early October when air temperatures reach 65-70°F for 4-5 consecutive days. The cooler weather triggers weed seed germination and applying a herbicide product (such as weed-n-feed) in September, will be ineffective. If you need help selecting the best herbicide for your weeds that won't harm the grass, please contact the Extension Office for advice (904-259-3520).

Some common winter weeds are:

(Click on the each name for more information and management recommendations.)

Common Chickweed



Annual Bluegrass



Burweed

Upper left: Close up photo of the burs (seeds) that cause painful pricks. Credit: Alicia Lamborn, UF/IFAS Extension

Lower right: Leaves and fruiting head. Credit: Joseph M. DiTomaso, University of California – Davis, Bugwood.org

Also check out:
[Non-chemical Weed Control for Home Landscapes and Gardens](#)

Barnyard Bulletin

By:
Alicia Halbritter,
Agriculture Agent



Identify Weed Species Before Attempting Control

Have a weed on your operation that you need to control? Identifying the weed species is imperative for proper control as each plant responds differently to every herbicide. In order to know which herbicide you need and at what rate, it's important to know what plant you're spraying first!



Mistaken Identity

To the average person these might just look like three photos of the same grass, and that's why it's so important to get an accurate ID before spraying! This is actually three different species, Johnsongrass, Vaseygrass, and Guinea grass. Some species look very similar to each other so when you are looking to identify a plant make sure you look at these specific parts (or bring the whole plant to the extension office for an ID!):



Seed Head / Flowers / Fruit:

Plants, especially grasses, that look alike can often have some identifiable characteristics like seed heads, flowers, or fruit. If you're not able to tell what a plant is at the stage it is, let it grow out some and monitor it along the way! If you are bringing a plant to your extension agent these key plant parts will help tremendously with an ID and are vital for you to bring with!

Getting an ID for your Plant:

Can't identify a plant? No problem! Your extension agent can help you, and even give you advice on how to control it. Extension agents will always prefer you to bring in a live sample of the whole plant, roots and all. Bringing in a sample allows us to look for specific characteristics while trying to key out the plant. If you aren't able to bring in the plant, make sure to take clear, good quality photos of the leaves (including leaf arrangement), flowers, seeds, fruit (if present), and use something for size reference.





Save The Dates!

Awards Program September 30, 2022, 6pm

Come and celebrate our members and the end to another 4-H Year! This is our final event for the 2021-2022 4-H year. 4-H will provide the meat, beef and swine families bring side dishes and all other families (bees, poultry, rabbits, goats) bring a dessert! Please RSVP by September 26th!

Kick-Off 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. Maybe go through an escape room!

Escape Room October 25-29, 2022

We are planning an agriculture/4-H themed escape room for the week prior to Halloween. If you would like to help plan or conduct the escape room please contact Ms. Shaina!

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).

Community Service Dates TBD

We have had a request for 4-Hers to do community service at various areas around the county. IF you would be interested in giving back to our community please speak with Ms. Shaina.



4-H Club Meetings & Events

- NO CLUB MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

AWARDS PROGRAM Friday, September 30, 2022 6:00pm

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.

Spotted Horsemint

Native to moist, coastal upland sites in Florida, Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*) is popular with pollinators, including hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies! Gardeners also love it for its fragrant leaves and flowers, and long-lasting bracts that hold their color for months at a time. The flowers are small, usually whitish to yellowish, with purple to maroon colored spots. Bract colors include shades of pink, purple, and cream which can also be spotted, hence the alternative name 'Spotted Horsemint'.



This herbaceous perennial is not a specimen plant but is great for informal gardens and mass planting. It is also moderately salt tolerant and works well in coastal landscapes if not directly exposed to salt spray.

Clumps between 2 to 4 feet wide produce flowers on leafy stems 1 to 3 feet tall during summer. Pinching off the upper buds of young plants will encourage branching and create a fuller plant. Because horsemint is typically unaffected by freezing temperatures in Florida, hard pruning to the ground or mowing will help remove dead stems and rejuvenate the plants.

Grow horsemint in a full sun location with well-drained soils. Although moderately drought tolerant, plants may require irrigation during prolonged drought. Propagation is by division or from seed.

Adapted from: <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/horsemint.html>

River Otters

A native of Canada and most of the United States, the North American river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) is Florida's only semi-aquatic carnivore.



The otter's thick, protective fur ranges from dark to light brown. Their narrow bodies, short legs, webbed feet, and strong tails make them adapted for both land and water. Long whiskers help them detect prey under water, while clawed feet help them grasp slippery prey.



Otters live in burrows on the banks of freshwater swamps, lakes, ponds, rivers, and creeks. Often, they dig their burrows under tree roots, or may remodel a beaver's burrow.

Breeding occurs in late winter to early spring. Otters have a unique breeding adaptation called delayed implantation in which the egg is fertilized during the summer but does not implant into the uterine wall until early winter.

Although males are more solitary, family groups typically consist of a mother and her young. Once hunted for their fur almost to extinction, today river otter populations are abundant.

Otters raiding your fish pond? Keep them out with fencing or use a cover such as a screen or pond netting which are commonly sold online.

Resources: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/UW/UW46400.pdf> and <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles/mammals/aquatic/river-otter/>

Extension Tidbits

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN September

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

ONLINE RESOURCES:

[COOL SEASON FORAGES](#)

[MICRO-IRRIGATION](#)

[HONEY BEEKEEPING IN FLORIDA](#)

[MUSHROOM GROWING](#)

[HYDROPONIC GARDENING](#)

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



Gardening SOLUTIONS

For more information, please visit
GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu

Florida Vegetable Pasta

INGREDIENTS

- 4 large Florida tomatoes, diced small
- 1 Florida zucchini, diced small
- 2 Florida yellow squash, diced small
- 1 dozen Florida mushrooms, washed and sliced
- 6 ounces fresh Florida spinach
- 12 ounces whole-wheat penne pasta (or your favorite)
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 5 garlic cloves, chopped fine
- 2 tablespoons fresh herbs (rosemary, thyme, basil, oregano,) chopped
- 1 lemon, juiced
- Freshly grated parmesan cheese for garnish
- Olive oil for cooking
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

PREPARATION

Bring a medium stockpot of salted water to a boil and cook pasta to desired tenderness. Drain pasta let it cool completely. Preheat a large sauté pan over medium-high heat. Add 1 tablespoon olive oil to preheated sauté pan. Add diced zucchini, squash, mushrooms and garlic to the preheated pan and cook for 2 minutes. Add the diced tomato, lemon juice and cream. Bring ingredients to a boil; add spinach and cooked pasta. Stir ingredients and continue to cook for another 2 to 3 minutes. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Stir in the chopped herbs. Serve hot, garnished with lots of parmesan cheese. Serve with herbed garlic bread.

[HTTPS://WWW.FOLLOWFRESHFROMFLORIDA.COM/RECIPES/FLORIDA-VEGETABLE-PASTA](https://www.followfreshfromflorida.com/recipes/florida-vegetable-pasta)



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

Caladium Fundraiser

The Baker Co. Master Gardeners currently have caladium tubers available for purchase.

In North & Central Florida, caladium tubers are planted in the ground between April & September. Plant your tubers at a depth of 2 inches—this means each tuber should be planted deep enough to cover them with 1.5" to 2" of soil.

Tuber spacing depends on size. Bigger tubers should be planted farther apart—jumbo tubers about 12-18" apart, smaller tubers 6-8" apart. Water regularly after planting but avoid creating soggy soils that could cause the tubers to rot. Partial sun to shade conditions are preferred.

Choose from 2 cultivars:



Florida Cardinal



Rosebud

Quantity per bag varies by size (some jumbo, some smaller) but they are packed so as not to disappoint!

Only \$5 per bag!

Extension Office Hours:
8:30am—Noon & 1:00—5:00pm



Baker County Fair

Home Arts & Horticulture Exhibits



Home Arts

Entries in the home arts division are open to all professional and non-professional adults, youth, and the exceptionally challenged. All articles displayed must be the work of the individual exhibitor, completed within the past 12 months. No articles will be accepted for judging that have previously been exhibited at the Baker County Fair. Exhibitors are required to deliver their own entries to the fair unless prior arrangements are made with a superintendent. Rules concerning number of entries in categories have changed and are specified in the respective division listings. Reasonable care will be exercised to safeguard the articles left for display, but the Baker County Fair Association will assume NO responsibility for the damage or loss of articles exhibited.



CHECK-IN will be:

Tuesday, September 13 @ 3 pm to 7 pm AND
Wednesday, September 14 @ 3 pm to 7 pm

Baked goods and candies will be accepted:
Wednesday, September 14 @ 3 pm to 7 pm AND
Thursday, September 15 @ 7:30 am to 8:15 am



PICK-UP time will be:

Sunday, September 25 @ 2 pm to 4 pm ONLY

Any article not claimed at the appropriate time for pick-up will be donated to charity and the exhibitor's premium for that item is forfeited.

Questions may be directed to:
Nancy Masterson 962-4937

Horticulture

Competition is open to all growers of ornamental plants (adult and youth). Exhibitors will be limited to 15 entries. Exhibitors may enter more than one entry in each class but not more than one of the same species, cultivar, or variety. Entries must be brought in by the Exhibitor. Each entry must be labeled with common or botanical name if known. The show committee will assist with identification if needed. All plants and containers should be cleaned and groomed. Any plant with obvious signs of disease or insects will be disqualified from judging. All entries must have been grown by the exhibitor and in his or her possession for at least three months prior to the Fair. The Baker County Master Gardeners will care for your plants while on display, but they as well as the Baker County Fair Association will assume NO responsibility for the damage or loss of plants exhibited.



CHECK-IN will be:

Tuesday, September 13 @ 12 pm to 7 pm AND
Wednesday, September 14 @ 9 am to 3 pm



PICK-UP time will be: ****NEW****

Thursday, September 22 @ 8 am to Noon ONLY

Any plant not claimed at the appropriate time for pick-up will be donated to charity and the exhibitor's premium for that item is forfeited.

Questions may be directed to:
Pat Collier 259-6064

Note: It is the participant's responsibility to read all rules and procedures.
For more information, please visit the Baker County Fair website at: <https://www.bakercountyfair.com/>