



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,

April is full of great gardening programs, including our annual Spring Garden Festival. Get ready to spruce up the yard with all the great plant selections we will have available at the Master Gardener booth. We'll even have free activities for the kids. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Alicia


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


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 drop them off at the Extension Office, preferably at the back fence near the greenhouse. Thank you!

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Classes & Events

- Mar 29** **Landscaping for Success**, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Baker County Extension Office. Perfect for new and experienced gardeners. Topics will include top performing plants for our area, landscape design tips, low maintenance practices and common mistakes made by gardeners. \$10 registration includes 2 gardening books (Florida-Friendly Landscaping & Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design) plus a plant of choice. Register in the office or online: <https://landscaping.eventbrite.com>
- Apr 10** **Hydroponic Gardening for the Homeowner**, 8:15 am to 12:15 pm, UF/IFAS NFREC- Suwannee Valley, 8202 CR 417, Live Oak, FL. Topics include hydroponic systems, growing transplants, fertilizer and IPM. www.HomeownerHydro.eventbrite.com
- Apr 13** **Spring Garden Festival**, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Baker County Extension Office. Festival includes a plant sale, kid's activity booth, gardening exhibits, and more. Free entry. Call (904) 259-3520 for vendor information.
- Apr 18** **Successfully Selling Eggs**, 6:00 pm, Baker County Extension Office. Learn all about successfully running a business of selling eggs whether for human consumption, animal consumption, or for hatching. \$10 pre-registration required. Register in the office or online: <http://bit.ly/BakerEggs>
- Apr 26** **Gardening for Pollinators**, 10:00 am to Noon, Baker County Extension Office. Learn which plants and gardening techniques will attract the most number of butterflies and bees to your garden. \$10 registration includes a set of pollinator field guides (for plants & insects) and a pollinator plant. Register in the office or online: <http://pollinatorgardening.eventbrite.com>
- Apr 30** **Stone Fruit Field Day**, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, UF/IFAS Plant Science Research and Education Unit, West Hwy 318, Citra, FL. Learn about peach production, low-chill varieties, insect and disease management, fertilization, and tour field plot. Free event. Please RSVP by April 23rd at stonefruitfieldday2019.eventbrite.com or call Staci Sanders at 352-591-2678.

Highlights in Horticulture

By:
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent



April Gardening Tips

Flowers

- Warmer weather allows for planting all sorts of flowering annuals and perennials. Look for gazanias, strawflowers and ageratum if you desire something a little different.
- Plant bulbs such as blood lily, caladium, canna, and gladiolus this month.

Trees & Shrubs

- If adding trees and shrubs to the landscape this spring, be sure to follow the planting and care guide provided in the next article to ensure proper establishment.

Lawns

- Apply fertilizer after new growth has started—usually mid-April in north Florida. If you haven't tested the soil to see what nutrients are needed, you can follow this guide for selecting and applying lawn fertilizer: http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/baker/docs/pdf/horticulture/FertilizingYourNFLawn_002.pdf

Vegetables & Herbs

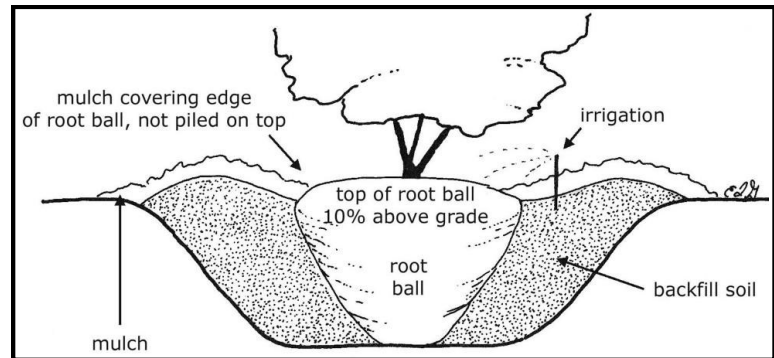
- Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, lemon balm, chives, oregano, sage, parsley, thyme, and rosemary. See: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs
- Continue planting warm-season vegetable crops. Mulch well to prevent weeds and provide irrigation if rainfall is lacking. See our complete guide to vegetable gardening in Florida: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

Fruits & Nuts

- Remove fruit from newly planted trees to help them get established. This will allow the plant to put energy into root and shoot growth rather than fruit production.
- Thin peaches and nectarines so that fruit are spaced about 6-10 inches apart. Plums should be spaced 3-6 inches apart. Remove the fruit before the pit starts to harden (approx. 1 month after bloom or when fruit is the size of a nickel). This will improve fruit quality and prolong the life of the tree.

Spring Planting & Care Guide for Trees and Shrubs

Planting: When planting trees and shrubs, locate the top-most root by removing excess soil from the top of the root ball and cut any circling roots. Dig your hole 2-3 times as wide as the root ball, but shallower than the height of the root ball so that a small portion sits above grade. This will allow roots to easily grow into the loosened surrounding soil but will also ensure that the plant is not set too deep (which can cause problems later). In poorly drained soils, position the top of the root ball 10% or more above the surrounding landscape soil.



Mulch: Apply a 3-inch mulch layer around the plant to discourage weeds and retain moisture, with only a thin layer over the root ball.

Fertilizer: It is best to wait 4-6 weeks before applying any fertilizer. Too much soluble nitrogen can burn the roots of newly installed trees and shrubs, causing damage or even death.

Irrigation: Supplying water in the correct quantity and frequency is important for establishment. Always apply water to the root ball and not the surrounding soil. For trees, apply 1.5 to 3 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter. For 3-gallon shrubs, apply only 1 gallon of water each time you water. Check your hose's flow rate by timing how long it takes to fill a one-gallon watering can so you'll know exactly how much water you are applying. If the soil feels moist, you can probably skip a day or two without harming your plant. In poorly-drained soils, irrigate less frequently.

Watering Schedule for Newly Planted Trees & Shrubs

Trunk Diameter	Irrigation Schedule for Vigor	Irrigation Schedule for Survival	Establishment Period
Trees, < 2 inches	Daily for 2 weeks, every other day for 2 months, then weekly until established	Twice per week for 2-3 months	4-8 months
Trees, 2-4 inches	Daily for 1 month, every other day for 3 months, then weekly until established	Twice per week for 3-4 months	8-15 months
Trees, > 4 inches	Daily for 6 weeks, every other day for 5 months, then weekly until established	Twice per week for 4-5 months	+15 months
Shrubs, 3-gallon	Every 2-4 days until established	Every 8 days	4-7 months

UF/IFAS Extension
Baker County
presents

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



11th annual

Spring Garden Festival

Agricultural Center Arboretum
1025 W. Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny FL

Saturday, April 13, 2019

9 am - 2 pm

plant
SALE

KIDS
Activities

gardening
EXHIBITS

FREE
ENTRY

Florida-Friendly
Landscaping
ADVICE

LOCAL
VENDORS

Info:
(904)
259-3520

The Foundation for the Gator Nation
An Equal Opportunity Institution

Spring Garden Festival

Master Gardener Plant Sale 🌸 Sneak Peek



Butterfly Vine

Showy flowering vine — up to 12' tall with support — Full to partial sun — Bright yellow, orchid shaped flowers — Blooms spring to fall — Seed pods are shaped like butterflies



Coral Honeysuckle

Florida Native — Pollinator-friendly perennial vine — Hummingbird magnet — Red tubular flowers — Berries attract songbirds — up to 15' — Full sun or partial shade



White Swamp Milkweed

Florida Native — Pollinator-friendly perennial — Larva host plant for monarch, queen and soldier butterflies — Showy white flowers — Perfect for wet areas in the landscape — 1-3' tall & wide



'Siskiyou Pink' Gaura

Pink flowers flutter like butterflies above red-tinged foliage — Full sun — Blooms spring to fall — 2-3' tall & wide — Drought tolerant



Mexican Sage

Pollinator-friendly perennial — Woolly purple blooms with fuzzy grayish leaves — Long blooming season — Drought tolerant — Deer resistant — 4-5' tall & wide



Indigo Spires Salvia

Pollinator-friendly perennial — Spikes of purple-blue flowers — 3' tall & wide — Full sun — Flowers spring through fall — Perfect for mass planting or containers — Good cut flower



Samantha (Lemon Swirl) Lantana

Pollinator-friendly perennial — Sterile cultivar — Bright yellow blooms — Variegated foliage — 1-2' tall & wide — Full sun — A beautiful plant even without blooms!



Dark Knight Bluebeard

Pollinator-friendly perennial — Blue-purple flowers in clusters — Fragrant gray-green foliage — 2' tall & wide — Full sun — Blooms in summer — Good for mass planting or containers



Heirloom
Roses



Hydrangeas



Amaryllis
Solid &
Striped



Daylilies
El Desperado
Wine Delight
Jolyene Nichole



4-H Program Sponsorships Sought

We've come such a long way in the 5 years since we began the 4-H Benefit Auction! Thanks to donations from businesses and individuals, we raised \$27,625 since the auction started. This has enabled us to provide over 20 youth scholarships valued at \$2,860 and \$1,235 to comply with youth protection policies. Additionally, as a result of those efforts, we will be purchasing a 15 passenger 4-H van this year to transport youth to events.

With repairs being made to the Ag Center, this year we are looking for program sponsorship rather than holding a public auction. A contribution would provide partial and complete scholarships for children to attend events, ranging in cost from \$110 to \$275, like Camp Cherry Lake, 4-H Legislature, 4-H University, as well as help fund volunteer screenings and school enrichment projects.

Levels of 4-H Sponsorship:

◆ Emerald: \$300+

◆ Gold: \$200-\$299

◆ Silver: \$100-\$199

◆ Bronze: \$1-\$99

We are requesting that contributions be received by Monday, June 10, 2019 to ensure scholarships can be given for this summer. Please mail or drop off contributions to the Extension Office, 1025 West Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063. All contributions are tax deductible and a thank-you letter will be mailed to you affirming the contributed amount. Please make checks payable to Baker County 4-H Association.

If youth who are planning to attend any 4-H events would like to help gather donations please get with Mrs. Shaina and she will get you information.

June 24-28, 2019

4-H Camp Cherry Lake "Adventure is Out There, Arrggh!"

Open to all youth ages eight to 18, as of June 1, 2019.

Deadline to register: June 17th, must be enrolled as a 4-H member by April 1st for member prices.

Early registration is due May 3rd: Member cost \$230;

Non-Member cost \$260.

Late registration is due after May 3rd: Member cost \$250;

Non-Member cost \$280.

Price includes all meals, transportation to and from camp, along with a t-shirt and daily canteen. Payment plans are available upon request. Payment secures registration.

Contact us by phone: 904-259-3520 or email slbennett@ufl.edu for more information on registration.

Camp counselors and CITs, ages 13+, are needed! Counselor training dates are May 18th from 10am-4pm at Camp Cherry Lake from 10am-4:30pm, transportation and lunch provided.



4-H Clubs Need Help!



We need people to help teach subjects at club meetings. If you or someone you know is knowledgeable about chickens, rabbits, cows, or arts & crafts, please contact Shaina at the Extension Office at 259-3520.

4-H Club Meetings & Events

- **Cloverleaf Cloggers**—Sanderson Community Center, Every Thursday 6-8pm
- **Livestock Club**— The Turner's, 7269 Oak Ridge Dr. Glen St. Mary 32040, **April 30th at 6pm**

April 4th— 4-H Day at the Capital. We will be leaving at 5:30AM from the office

April 9th— Livestock Animal Orientation 6pm, Sanderson Community Center, 8274 Thomas Sweat Rd. 32087 MANDATORY for new members showing animals.

Barnyard Bulletin

By:
Alicia Halbritter,
Agriculture Agent



Ag-Vocating

Why it's more important than you think!

Do you enjoy a nice medium rare steak? How about buffalo chicken wings? Pulled pork sandwich? All the sides that go with 'em? If you do, then you should be advocating for agriculture!

Farm Bureau estimates that the average American is at least three generations removed from the farm and less than 2% of Americans work directly with agriculture. Why does that matter? That means 98% of the American population is making decisions about industries they aren't aware of. Consumers impact the agriculture industry every day with their buying power, and if that buying power is swayed in one direction or another based on the premise of untrue information it can be damaging.

It is important that those who are involved in agriculture advocate for their industry. Share factual scientific information with your family, friends, and especially on social media to help teach the 98% about agriculture. We can support industries we love by giving consumers the information to make the right purchasing decisions for their families. If the 2% of Americans involved in agriculture stand up and speak a little louder, we can make an impact on the 98% of Americans who ultimately decide our fate with money and votes.

Ag-vocating supports the agriculture industry and helps ensure a safe, wholesome and steady food supply for us to enjoy! Need help with ideas? Follow the North Florida Livestock Agents Group on Facebook and see our Ag-vocating posts every day!

[Facebook.com/UFNFLAG](https://www.facebook.com/UFNFLAG)

Preparing for Spring Pasture

Have you submitted your soil test?

Soil testing is very important when making decisions for spring pasture green-up. Soil tests can help you determine the amount of fertilizer needed for your grass to maintain optimal growth and applying the suggested rate can help cut costs while still improving the pasture.

Over-fertilization can cause pollution of the waterways and reduces potential profits of an operation. Under-fertilization can be considered improper use of funds since you aren't giving your pasture everything it needs for optimal growth.

Submit a soil test today and apply the recommended rates of N-P-K in early spring.

Successfully Selling Eggs

April 18 | 6 pm | Ag Center

\$10 Pre-Registration Required

Considering selling eggs for consumption or hatching?

Join us to learn about production, marketing, & business practices including record keeping and finances!



Purchase tickets here:

<http://bit.ly/BakerEggs>

