



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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Dear Extension Friends,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday. We are looking forward to a prosperous New Year in Baker County. During 2016, the Extension Office will be offering many programs of different types, so keep an eye on the Calendar and Upcoming Programs sections for programming that may be of interest to you. It is also time to renew your newsletter subscription, if you have not already done so. Please see page 8 of the newsletter for more details or visit our website at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>. As always, if we can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Davis
Director / Agriculture Agent
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
IFAS Extension
Baker County Extension

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Highlights in Horticulture

By:
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent

Plant of the Month: Chinese Evergreen

Chinese evergreen, also known as Aglaonema, is a popular foliage plant in both homes and offices because it adds great interest in low-light areas, yet requires minimal care. The common name of Chinese evergreen collectively refers to 21 species of plants that are originally from Southeast Asia where they grow in tropical forests.

Some varieties have solid green leaves, but most cultivars have interesting variegation in shades of silver, gray, or light green. Here are a few popular cultivars from the University of Florida breeding program:



Aglaonema 'Emerald Bay'

- ◆ 'Moonlight Bay' is a medium green with bold silver markings.
- ◆ 'Emerald Bay' has silvery-green leaves with darker dapples along the margins.
- ◆ 'Diamond Bay' has light green foliage with solid green margins.
- ◆ 'Stripes' has foliage that alternates in bands of green and silver.

The long, narrow leaves can reach up to two feet long, and the plants grow 1-3 feet tall and wide. The plants aren't conspicuous bloomers, but they can produce flowers that resemble a peace lily (made up of a spathe and spadix). It's recommended that flowers be removed in order to prevent production of unattractive berries.

Chinese evergreen plants are best grown indoors, preferring temperatures between 68-77 degrees and medium to low light. Plant them in a rich potting media and water them only when the top inch of soil feels dry to the touch. These plants have low water requirements so it's important not to overwater, which may trigger other problems. If you have a plant that needs repotting, you can either move it to a larger pot or divide it into two smaller plants. Another way to make new plants is to cut off any leggy stalks and then root them.

Photo and information credit: <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/houseplants/chinese-evergreen.html>

WHAT TO PLANT IN NORTH FLORIDA



JANUARY

FLOWERS

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

VEGETABLES

Arugula	Kale
Beets	Kohlrabi
Broccoli	Lettuce
Brussel Sprouts	Mustard
Cabbage	Onions, bunching
Carrots	Peas, English/Snow
Cauliflower	Potatoes, Irish
Celery	Radish
Chinese Cabbage	Spinach
Collards	Swiss Chard
Endive/Escarole	Turnips

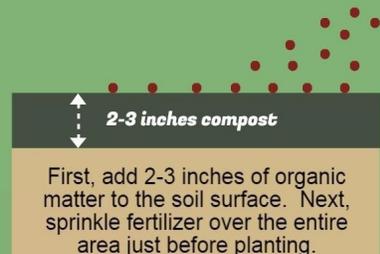
PREPARING TO PLANT & FERTILIZING

Most Florida soils benefit greatly from the addition of organic matter such as compost.

RESOURCES :

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

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



First, add 2-3 inches of organic matter to the soil surface. Next, sprinkle fertilizer over the entire area just before planting.

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.

Poultry Questions & Answers



As many of you know, there is a large interest in backyard poultry production throughout the state of Florida and I receive many poultry-related questions during the year. The following Q & A section is comprised of the most common questions that I receive. If you have a question about poultry, please be sure to check out my poultry newsletter, *Feathered Facts*, which can be found online at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/FeatheredFacts.html>. You can also contact me via phone or email from the contact information section on page 1.

General Poultry Q & A

Q: What is the average lifespan of a chicken?

A: Chickens can live for several years if their living conditions are correct. It is not uncommon for a chicken to live from 6 to 10 years. However, this does not mean that the animal will stay in peak production for that amount of time. Most commercial laying hens are kept for 2 to 3 years.

Q: How old are chickens when they begin to lay eggs?

A: Under ideal conditions (nutrition, day length, housing, and management), hens should begin to lay eggs at around 20 weeks of age. There may be some that start a little earlier than this, and some that may start a bit later, but 20 weeks is the average age.

Q: My hen just hatched some baby chicks. What is the male/female distribution? How can I tell if my chicks are male or female?

A: Under normal conditions, a random mating will result in a 50:50 ratio of male to female offspring. Determining the sex of newly hatched chicks is very difficult. There are some crosses that result in differences in feather length of male and female offspring, but these are accomplished under controlled conditions. In most cases, you will have to wait until the chicks are older to determine the sex.

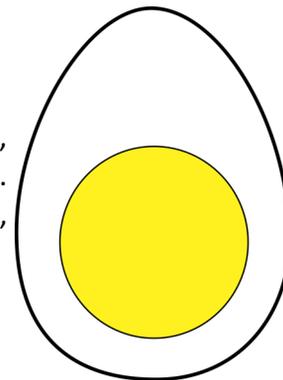
Incubation, Embryology, and Egg Q & A

Q: Which part of the egg develops into the baby chick, the yolk or the white?

A: Actually, neither the yolk or the white develop into the baby chick. There are a group of cells on top of the yolk called the germinal disc. In an unfertilized egg, the cells look like small, pale dot. In a fertilized egg that has been incubated for a few hours, the disc has a doughnut shape. It is these cells that eventually become the baby chick. The egg white contains many antibacterial elements that help protect the developing embryo, while the yolk is the nutrient source.

Q: Will a double-yolk egg develop into twin chicks?

A: No. While both germinal discs may start to develop inside the egg during incubation, there is not enough room inside the shell to support the development of two chicks. Even if they are fertilized, double-yolk eggs almost never hatch out; and if they do, only one chick will have developed.



January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Extension Office Closed New Year's Day	2
3	4	5 	6	7	8	9
10	11 	12 	13	14 	15	16
17	18 Extension Office Closed MLK, Jr. Holiday	19 	20	21 	22 	23
24	25	26 	27	28 	29	30
31						

Upcoming Programs are marked with a Program Area Symbol. Please match these symbols with the list on the following page for more information about the program.



4-H



Horticulture



Agriculture

Upcoming Programs & Events

Programs will be held at the Baker County Extension Office (Agricultural Center) unless otherwise noted.

January 22 **Tree Pruning Workshop**, 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm, Baker County Extension Office. Join us for a free, hands-on pruning lesson in the Arboretum. Topics will include pruning equipment, making proper pruning cuts, and pruning strategies for different tree species. Some pruning equipment will be available for guided practice, or you can bring your own. For more information, please call (904) 259-3520. Can't attend the workshop? Check out the pruning article in this month's *Highlights in Horticulture* newsletter, available online at: <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Lawn%20&%20Garden/documents/JAN2016.pdf>

Are you a Food Producer in North Central Florida?



UF/IFAS is seeking participants for two focus groups on sustainable production. One will be in Gainesville on January 11, 2016, and the other in the Jacksonville area on January 25, 2016. There is a monetary provision for being a participant.

Interested parties can get additional information at the following website:

http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar/2016_0111_Agriculture%20Focus%20Group%20Flyer.pdf

Those who wish to register can do so by visiting: <http://bit.ly/1kmfAnK>.

Please refer registration questions to Heather Keown (hrkeown@ufl.edu or 352-273-2095). Please refer questions about the research to Dr. Katie Stofer (stofer@ufl.edu).



4-H Club Meetings & Events:

All County 4-H Club — 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at 6pm in the 4-H classroom

Livestock Club — 4th Tuesday of each month at 6pm in Auditorium

Cloverleaf Cloggers — Every Tuesday at 8pm at Fabulous Footworks

New Club! Baker Creation Explorers—3rd Thursday of the month at 4:30pm in the 4-H Classroom.

County Council—Ages 10 & up. Meets 2nd Monday of the month at 6pm in the 4-H Classroom.

January

15– 2nd Executive Board—Registration Closes

18– Hog & Ham Workshop, UF

29-31– 2nd Executive Board, Camp Cherry Lake

Get Fit with 4-H! Fun for the Whole Family Begins January 4th— Register Now!



\$25 registration per family and additional costs based on equipment needs. To register or for more information, call the Extension Office at 259-3520.

Happy New Year!

It is a new year and with the new year comes new experiences, new goals, and best of all new memories. As we embark on the new year keep in mind of goals for not only yourself, but also your 4-H goals. Do you want to compete at county events and win an award? Would you want to do a service learning activity and have an impact on our community? With the opportunities that 4-H offers, the possibilities are endless!

A 4-H club plan really helps a club run smoothly. For club officers, you need to assist your members and leaders in developing your annual plan including your club goals, calendar of club meetings and detailed meeting plans. Involving your club members in planning your programs will be a key step in your success for the year.

The 4-H Club Planning Workbook is also the club recognition standards for 4-H clubs throughout the state. You, your members and leaders, may want to review this as you begin your planning if you want to excel and be recognized for your work.

Part of the expectations of a club, and each year following, is that you submit your club plans to the County Extension Office updating your club records as you re-enroll membership annually. This gives the 4-H staff a record of your club's planned activities and will help them help you.

Part of the plan might also be identifying community service project(s) you and your club members want to conduct this year. Be sure to include these on your calendar. Every club, like ourselves, should have goals.

Begin your club year by establishing goals. Brainstorming and working as a group will help you get everyone engaged in planning for a successful year. Examples of Club Goals could be to enroll 5 new members, increase family participation, have 100% of members complete at least one project book, have 100% of members participate in one community service-learning project or have at least 50% of members give at least one demonstration or illustrated talk. Next, as a group, plan the learning experiences, special activities, events like fundraising and community service events that your members would like to do as a club for the year. Be sure to try to involve all members in some responsibilities throughout the year. With all this in mind, some really great new 4-H memories can be made!!

Source: Adapted from, 4-H Club Planning Workbook. For more information on this go to: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/4h013>

Events

January

15- 2nd Exec. Board Reg. Closes

15- Deadline to Register for Hog & Ham

18- Hog & Ham Workshop, UF

25- MAD Monday (online)- Animal Science Projects 7pm, Contact Mrs. Shaina

27- 4-H Day @ the Capitol Registration Closes

29-31- 2nd Exec. Board Camp Cherry Lake

February

03- 4-H Day at the Capitol, Tallahassee

04-15- Florida State Fair, Tampa

26- District STEM Fair

March

01- Legislature Registration Opens

19- County Events, Auditorium 10am



Holiday Bake-Off Winner

Our winner for the 2015
4-H Holiday Bake-Off is
Kelsi Sands with her
Christmas Stump Cake!
Congratulations Kelsi!!



Birthdays for January:

Wishing you all a **Happy Birthday!**

01-Stacey Taylor

08-Chase Gaskins

09-Elijah Stokes

13-Katie Small

14-Ridge Rhoden

16-Mrs. Madeline Carroll

17-Penny Davis

22-Mrs. Cheryl McCreary

27-Emma Stewart

30-Jayden Gaskins

Happy Birthday



Download our App to
keep up with 4-H!



Poultry Questions & Answers

Continued from page 3

Q: I've heard that changing the incubation temperature will influence the sex of the hatching baby chicks. Is this true?

A: The incubation temperature has no influence on the sex of the baby chick that hatches. In chickens, the chromosomes that determine sex are ZZ for male and ZO for female (compared to XX for female and XY for male in humans). It is the combination of these chromosomes that determines the sex of the baby chick. Temperature fluctuations outside of the normal range may cause the embryos to stop developing, resulting in few or no chicks hatching.

Poultry Meat and Egg Products Q & A

Q: Are hormones used to produce poultry meat?

A: No. Hormones are not fed to or administered to commercial poultry. Federal law prohibits the use of hormones in poultry meat and egg production. The rapid growth rates, high egg production, and excellent feed efficiencies that are seen in today's poultry are the result of selective breeding, excellent nutrition, and good husbandry practices. Please note that poultry product labels cannot contain claims such as "No Hormones Added" unless it is followed by a statement that says "Federal regulations prohibit the use of hormones".

Q: Why do some chickens in grocery stores have yellow skin while others have white skin?

A: The yellow color of some chicken skin is caused by the ingestion of yellow and orange pigments in the poultry feed. Corn is an example of a feed ingredient that has yellow pigments. These pigments are absorbed from the feed and produce the yellow skin. This also happens in egg production and is why the yolks can have varying hues from light yellow to almost orange. There is no nutritional difference in these eggs, only differences in pigmentation.

Q: Why do chickens and turkeys have light and dark meat?

A: As with other animals, different muscles in these birds perform different tasks. This leads to different muscles being used at varying rates. Muscles that are used a great deal and over long periods of time require a lot of oxygen to perform well. There is a compound in these muscles that helps to store oxygen for periods of increased or long-term use called myoglobin. Myoglobin is similar to hemoglobin, which is found in red blood cells and carries oxygen throughout the body. Each of these molecules contains iron and when they are loaded with oxygen, they have a reddish color. Muscles that are used extensively have a lot of myoglobin, which results in their reddish or darker hue. Muscles that are used less frequently or only for short periods of time have much less myoglobin and are lighter in color. This is why chickens and turkeys have darker meat in the legs and thighs (muscles which are used a lot) and light or lighter meat in the breast and wings (commercial chickens and turkeys don't fly often or for long periods). Other fowl that fly, such as ducks, will have dark meat in the breast and wing area as well.

Please remember that if you have questions about poultry, please contact me via the methods on page 1. I hope that this information was helpful to you, and at the very least you'll have some poultry trivia to share with your friends.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Extension programs are open to all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, handicap, or national origin. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in any activity, should contact the Baker County Cooperative Extension Service at 1025 West Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063 or telephone (904) 259-3520 no later than five (5) days prior to the event. Hearing impaired persons can access the foregoing telephone by contacting the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

SECOND REQUEST

If you would like to remain on the **Baker Bulletin** mailing list in 2016, please complete the form below and mail it or bring it to our office. **Highlights in Horticulture** and **Feathered Facts** will continue to be produced individually and distributed electronically through email. You may also renew any newsletter subscription by visiting our website at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

PHONE: _____ **RACE** _____ **GENDER** _____

- I would like to receive *The Baker Bulletin* by email.
- I would like to receive *Highlights in Horticulture* by email.
- I would like to receive *Feathered Facts* by email.

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please return this form to our office or mail it to: Baker County Extension Service
1025 W. Macclenny Ave.
Macclenny, FL 32063