



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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Dear Extension Friends,

Even though we have had some cold weather, it is time to start thinking about springtime. This could mean getting your garden ready for planting, performing landscape maintenance or getting your pasture ready for the spring green up. We are here to help. If you have questions regarding your agriculture or horticulture operation, please stop by, give us a call or send us an email with your questions. Don't forget that 4-H County and District Events are coming up. Please see Ms. Shaina for details. As always, if we can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Davis
County Extension Director / Ag Agent
Baker County Extension Service

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
IFAS Extension
Baker County Extension

Contact Information—Baker County Extension Service

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Highlights in Horticulture

By:
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent

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March Garden Calendar

Vegetable Gardens: Warm season vegetables such as beans, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peas, peppers, squash and tomatoes can be planted this month. Plant in the garden after the danger of frost is past or start

seed in a protected location for transplanting later. For suggested vegetable varieties and more, see the Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>



Fruits: Depending on your management strategy, figs, grapes, persimmons, pomegranates and newly planted pecans may require fertilizer this month. For info on what type of fertilizer to apply and how much, visit http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/documents/MonthlyCalendar_FruitsandNuts_002.pdf

Perennials: Dead branches and foliage help keep crowns of perennials warm during winter freezes. Begin cutting these back as the new spring growth starts to emerge. Ornamental grasses can also be cut or burned back almost to ground level. Burning often will rejuvenate large grass clumps and remove years of old dead stems that have accumulated. Read more at: http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/giam/maintenance_and_care/establishing/pruning_ornglass.html



Lawns: Now is not the time to apply fertilizer, including weed-n-feed which contains fertilizer. Apply fertilizer no sooner than mid-April after new growth has started. If needed, apply a pre-emergence herbicide to control annual weeds. A general rule of thumb for pre-emergence herbicide application in north Florida is to apply around March 1 (when day temperatures reach 65° to 70°F for four or five consecutive days) to control spring-germinating weeds. This application timing generally coincides with blooming of azaleas and dogwoods. To obtain season-long control, an additional application should follow 6 to 9 weeks after the initial one. Always read and follow product label directions. Learn more at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep141>

Plant of the Month: Banana Shrub

The banana shrub (*Michelia figo*) is actually a member of the magnolia family that grows as an evergreen shrub with glossy dark green leaves. But what makes this plant really attractive are its flowers which bloom in early spring and into summer. The flower is a miniature version of the magnolia flower, with petals that are pale yellow with dark burgundy around the edges. Its strong fragrance has been compared to the fragrance of ripe bananas, which is the reason for its name.

Plant the banana shrub in full sun or light shade, in slightly acidic, well-drained soils that has been enriched with organic matter. In the sun, the banana shrub can grow to be 10-20 feet in height and nearly as wide. It may also develop more than one trunk and tend to be more compact with denser foliage versus a single trunk and open form when grown in shade. Minimal pruning and moderate drought tolerance make this plant easy to care for in north Florida's climate.

While the banana shrub is not prone to pests, it can develop false oleander scale or mushroom rot. Avoid planting in an area where the soil will remain too soggy.

A new variety of this species called Skinner's banana shrub has proven to be superior in north Florida in terms of vigorous growth, attractive form and longer flowering than the old-fashioned banana shrub. There is also a hybrid cultivar of banana shrub named 'Allspice' but it appears to be better suited for the slightly warmer climates of zones 9 and 10.

Although native to Asia, the banana shrub is a delightful, non-invasive addition to the landscape. Be sure to plant this bush near a patio or a window so its fragrance can be enjoyed by all who pass by.

Note: Despite its common name and enticing scent, no part of this plant is edible. Smell only, do not eat.

Article written by Roberta Koniuchowsky, Baker County Master Gardener Volunteer

Operation Cleansweep 2015

Operation Cleansweep is a mobile pesticide collection program that provides a safe way to dispose of cancelled, suspended and unusable pesticides at **NO COST** for:

- Farms / Groves
- Nurseries
- Pest Control Services
- Greenhouses
- Forestry
- Golf Courses



Pesticide Dealers can participate in the program for a fee.

To participate in **Operation Cleansweep 2015**, please contact the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (contact information below).

Toll Free: 877-851-5285

Contact: Shannon Turner

Email: cleansweep@freshfromflorida.com

Cleansweep Website: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/cleansweep-pesticides/>

2015 Operation Cleansweep Partners & Representatives

- Florida Peanut Producers Association
- Florida Farm Bureau
- Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
- Certified Pest Control Operators Assoc. of FL
- Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association
- Florida Forestry Association
- Florida Landscape Maintenance Association
- Florida TurfGrass Association
- Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association
- Florida/Georgia Soybean Association
- Florida Pest Management Association
- Florida Tomato Committee
- Florida Citrus Mutual
- Florida Sod Growers Cooperative



Recent Changes Made to the Florida Urban Turf Fertilizer Rule

(for commercial fertilizer applicators)

On January 8, 2015, The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services adopted changes to the statewide Urban Turf Fertilizer Rule 5E-1.003 F.A.C. The notable changes are listed below.

- Addition of the term “Actively Growing Turf” - Fertilizer should only be applied when turf is actively growing.
- Increased nitrogen application rate to 2lbs. per 1000 ft.² in spring and summer.
- Limits nitrogen applications to 1 lb. per 1000 ft.² during the fall or winter.
- If a total controlled release form of nitrogen is applied, not more than 35% of the nitrogen in the fertilizer can be released within the first 7 days after application.
- Modification to the nitrogen application recommendations in the “Annual Fertilization Guidelines”
 - Recommendation to only apply to actively growing turf
 - No application of nitrogen in the winter months in North Florida
 - Limits nitrogen application rates to 1 lb. per application in the fall and winter in central and south Florida
 - Reduced the maximum annual lbs. of nitrogen for Zoysia grass.
- Included “Apply only to actively growing turf” and “Check with your county or city government to determine if there are local regulations for fertilizer use” in required precautionary statements.
- “Maximum” is no longer required for the coverage area statement on the front of the bag. Coverage area will suffice.
- Existing stock clause, licensees are granted 18 months to make necessary label modifications.

Requests for additional information or questions should be directed to Steven Harley, Environmental Specialist III at FDACS—850-617-7883 or Steve.Harley@freshfromflorida.com

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 	11	12 	13	14
15	16 	17 	18	19	20 	21
22	23	24 	25	26 	27	28
29	30	31 				APR 18 

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.

Postponed
March 6 **Florida-Friendly Landscaping: Digging Deeper into Your Lawn**—10:00am to 12:00pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL. This event includes a class on basic lawn care, a personalized yard visit to discuss lawn problems, a soil test with consultation, and a follow up evaluation. \$10 registration fee due by Tuesday, March 3rd. Call 904-259-3520 for more information. **Class has been postponed—new date to be announced soon.**

March 16-17 **Starting a Successful Hydroponic Business**— Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center, 8202 CR 417, Live Oak, FL 32060. This workshop is designed for the small farmer that would like to use controlled growing systems. The course is over two days and will feature hands-on activities inside 3 greenhouses, a shade house and an outdoor production area. TO register, please visit <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/ufifas-small-farms-academy-753039635>. For additional information, please contact the Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center at 386-362-1725.

March 20 **Spring Has Sprung—Master Gardener Plant Clinic**—11:00 am to 2:00 pm, Baker County Extension Office (Parking Lot), Macclenny, FL. Need a plant identified, a garden problem solved, or just want to learn something new? Stop by the office to celebrate the first day of spring with the Master Gardeners and enjoy garden demonstrations, free information, and a vegetable seed giveaway!

April 18 **Spring Garden Festival**—9:00am to 2:00pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL. For vendor information, please contact our office at 904-259-3520.

May 16 **4-H Association Auction & Alumni Event** — Alumni event will begin at 5:00pm; auction begins at 6:00pm. If you would like to make a donation to the auction, please contact Shaina Bennett at 259-3520.



If you are interested in becoming a Baker County Master Gardener in 2015, we want to hear from you!



*Please submit an interest form at:
http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/master_gardener.html
and you will be contacted by a program representative.*



4-H Club Meetings & Events:

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

Livestock Club — This month's meeting is at the Fairgrounds on March 24th at 6pm. Please check with your 4-H Livestock Leaders to confirm before March 24th.

Cloverleaf Cloggers — Tuesdays at 7pm— Fabulous Footworks.

Important Dates: March 2015

07– 4-H County Events, 9am. **PRE-REGISTER!!**
13– 4-H Day at the Capitol Reg. CLOSES
26– 4-H Day at the Capitol, Tallahassee, FL
28– District Retreat, Bradford County Fairgrounds, \$15



Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:

Shaina Bennett,
4-H Agent

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County Events is approaching! Every year at County Events 4-H members come together to participate and compete with one another.

The Purpose of County and District Events

County and district level presentations provide a valuable teaching and learning situation. They give Junior, Intermediate, and Senior participants an opportunity to:

- Practice making oral and visual presentations.
- Learn presentation techniques from observing others.
- Receive constructive suggestions for improvement.
- Receive recognition for efforts.

The County 4-H program receives additional recognition and visibility through these activities. All 4-H events should foster a strong educational 4-H program by providing physical, mental, social, and emotional growth experiences for individual 4-H members. Events should give 4-H members positive, meaningful experiences in leadership and citizenship development.

Competitive events are a planned part of the 4-H curriculum, designed to allow youth to:

- Gain experience and develop skills in gathering, preparing, and presenting educational information.
- Enhance decision making capabilities.
- Make public presentations.
- Learn standards by which comparisons are drawn.
- Develop good sportsmanship.

Competitive events are just one of the many teaching methods used by 4-H leaders and Extension Agents.

Adapted from: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/files/4H/4H24900.pdf>

And http://florida4h.org/staff/Project%20Resources/Events/files/planning_events.pdf

County Events are a very important part of participation in 4-H beyond the club level. At county events you can compete in the following activities:

- Demonstrations— a 'How to' speech
- Illustrated talks—Telling about speech
- Fashion Revue (fashion show/sewing)
- Horse Public Speaking
- Photography— 8x10, mounted or framed
- Posters— 4-H subject matter, no larger than 14"x22"
- Share-The-Fun (talent show)

You can do all of these and more at County Events. If you do well you can move on to District Events, May 9, 2015 at Kanapaha Middle School in Gainesville. Following District Events is 4-H University for Senior members the week of July 27-31, 2015 in Gainesville, FL.

Events

March

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- 13— 4-H Day at the Capitol Reg. CLOSSES
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April

- 03— Good Friday Office CLOSED
- 04— State Horse Judging Contest
- 18— Spring Garden Festival, Arboretum
- 20-May 11— Ms. Shaina will NOT be in the office. Please email or leave messages, but do not expect an answer until May 11th at the earliest.

May

- 09— District Events, Kanapaha Middle School, Gainesville, Reg. 8am, **ON YOUR OWN**
- 11— Auction items are DUE
- 16— 4-H Association Auction & Alumni Event
Alumni Event will begin at 5:00pm
Auction will begin at 6:00pm

Baker County 

 Like Us! www.facebook.com/bakerco4h

Don't forget to sign up for auction donation businesses!!! Please email Ms. Shaina at slbennett@ufl.edu and let her know 2-3 businesses you would like to ask for donations

Birthdays for March:

Wishing all of you a very **Happy Birthday!**

- 03 - Garrett Bridges
- 09 - Ms. Emily Coulliette
- 09 - Ryan Webb
- 16 - Eli Williamson
- 20 - Gracie Gray
- 23 - Haylee Sands
- 25 - Angelina Troshyna
- 26 - Bryce Cole



Prepping Your Pasture for Spring



Even though we have had some cold weather lately, it's time to start thinking about spring green-up. This is the time of year that many pasture owners and forage producers will start to apply fertilizer to help

meet the nutritional demands of livestock. Planning ahead will help you to get the optimum performance from your pasture.

Soil Testing—Soil testing is an integral part of forage management. Not only will a soil test inform you of the amount of fertilizer that you need to apply, it will also give you the current pH and lime requirement. It is important to know this information as early as you can as it typically takes lime applications 3 to 6 months before they fully regulate the pH to the desired level. You should also keep in mind that while we generally have acidic soils here in North Florida, repeated lime application to soil without determining the pH can raise pH to an undesirable level.

Timing of Fertilizer Application—Fertilizers should be applied when the forage crop is actively growing. Established warm-season grasses such as bahiagrass and bermudagrass typically begin good growth when the constant nighttime temperature reaches 50° to 60°F. Once temperatures reach this level, fertilizer can be applied. If you have a new planting in the field, only apply fertilizer after the plants have emerged. You should also split the fertilizer for new plantings so that you don't waste fertilizer on newly emerged plants. Applications should be made after plant emergence and 1 to 2 months after the first fertilization.

Walk the Line—It's not just a old Johnny Cash song. Walking your pasture and fence line can help to identify problem areas. Make sure to look at fences, gates, crossings, lanes and other areas that your livestock will be using. During this inspection it is also important to

note areas that are bare or look like they were overgrazed so that they can be reseeded for the upcoming growing season.

Take Care of Weed Issues—During your inspection of the pasture, you should also make sure to note areas that may be infested with weeds or have the potential to become infested. There are many herbicide options available for common pasture weeds, but they should be applied with the correct timing. Many small broadleaf weeds can be taken care of with 2,4-D, which is fairly inexpensive. However, if these weeds are allowed to mature, it may take a more expensive option to rid yourself of the problem.

Plan and Follow Through—Finally, it is important to plan the activities for your pasture early, especially if you are using a rotational grazing scheme. Having a good plan will help you get the optimum performance from your land while helping to decrease the costs of materials and labor.

UF | IFAS Beef Management Tips for March—the full calendar can be found at http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/beef_extension/docs/beef_calendar.pdf.

- Fertilize pasture to stimulate early growth.
- Prepare land for summer crops.
- Begin grazing warm-season permanent pastures.
- Check and fill mineral feeder.
- Observe bulls for condition and success. Rotate and rest if needed.
- Deworm cows as needed.
- Make sure calves are healthy and making good weight gains.
- Hang force-use dust bags by April 1st for external parasite control or use insecticide impregnated ear tags.
- Identify, vaccinate, implant and work late calves.
- Put bulls out March 1st for calving season to start December 9th.
- Remove bulls March 22nd to end calving season January 1st.

Baker County Extension Service

1025 West Macclenny Avenue
Macclenny, FL 32063

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Email: michael.davis@ufl.edu

Website: http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu

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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).

FINAL REQUEST

If you would like to remain on the **Baker Bulletin** mailing list in 2015, 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.

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