

Highlights in

Horticulture

Baker County

February 2014

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Dear Extension Friends,

With the new year, we are rolling out a new project—a Facebook page for our clientele. The goal of this project is to better serve you, making it easier for both existing and new clientele to stay connected to the Baker County Extension Office. For more information, please see below, and let us know how else we might be able to serve you better!

Best Regards,

Alicia

Alicia R. Lamborn
Horticulture Extension Agent
Baker County Extension Service

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UF/IFAS Extension Baker County Garden Spot

Like us on Facebook and stay connected to the Baker County Extension Office!

You'll receive weekly gardening tips, timely reminders on what to do in your garden, plus notices on upcoming classes, workshops and events!

You'll also be able to comment on articles, ask questions, and test your knowledge with featured quiz questions!



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Berry Beautiful

When you think of plants with beautiful berries, you probably think of Hollies, but there are other nice, ornamental plants that put on a show with their berries too!

Hollies are nice, low-maintenance plants for Florida, many of which have attractive berries that feed birds and brighten our fall and winter days. There are also many species to choose from, with a variety of sizes, shapes and textures to please the eye. Here are a few interesting varieties:

Ilex opaca – American Holly is a medium-large, conical to columnar tree that slowly reaches 25-50 feet tall. This tree provides the classic holly look with spiny green leaves and clusters of red berries. Yellow-fruited cultivars ('Calloway' and 'Canary') are also available.

Ilex cassine — Dahoon Holly is a medium sized tree, reaching 40 feet tall, although typically 20-30 feet with an 8 to 15 foot crown. Glossy oblong leaves have margins that are either smooth or have several tiny teeth near the tip. Bright red berries ripen in late fall and persist through winter. Native to swamps and low hammocks, this tree is perfect for landscapes with poor drainage.



Ilex x attenuata 'East Palatka' – East Palatka Holly is a medium sized tree that grows 30 feet. It has a pyramidal shape, bright red berries, and rounded green leaves with just one spine at the tip.

Ilex vomitoria 'Pendula' - Weeping Yaupon holly is a small, upright tree with a nice weeping habit that grows 15 feet tall. It has small gray green leaves that lack spines, and red berries. These trees are great for creating a screen and for trimming into attractive topiaries.

Other plants with beautiful berries include:

Cretaeus marshallii – Parsley Hawthorn (also called Parsley Haw) gets its name from its parsley shaped leaves, giving it quite a delicate, ornamental look in the landscape. It is a small tree, growing to 20 feet tall, with pretty white flowers containing red and white stamens (shown right). The flowers grow in clusters on hairy stalks and bloom in the spring, followed by bright red-orange berries that ripen in fall and persist until winter.



Callicarpa americana – American Beautyberry is a fast growing, native shrub having a loose shape and reaching 3-8 feet tall and wide. The branches form almost a weeping habit as they grow older. Fuzzy, coarse light green leaves provide a nice backdrop for the small lavender-pink flowers that bloom from June to August. A profusion of showy, clustered, purple berries (shown left) follow in fall, and if not completely devoured by birds, will persist on the woody stems for several weeks after the leaves drop. *Callicarpus americana* var. *lactea* has white berries and attractive foliage. The cultivar 'Russell Montgomery' has especially nice white berries.

Fruit Tree Calendar: January & February



The following fruit trees require attention this month. All fertilizer recommendations are for optimum growth and production. Applying less fertilizer is also acceptable, but the total amount should not exceed these recommendations. When beginning a fertilizer regimen for mature, established plants, it is sometimes best to treat the plants as if they were just planted (starting at year 1 or 2).



January

Apples: Fertilize during the dormant season using 10-10-10 with micronutrients, esp. Zinc and Boron; broadcast 1 pound (2 cups) of fertilizer for each year of age, up to 7.5 pounds total during January to March.

Blueberries (Newly Planted): Do not put fertilizer in the planting hole. After planting, when the soil is well settled from irrigation or rainfall, give un-mulched plants 1 ounce (2 TB) per plant of 12-4-8 with 2% magnesium (Mg). Spread fertilizer evenly over a circle 2 feet in diameter. *Note: Use ammoniacal nitrogen or nitrogen from urea or organic sources, rather than from nitrate sources. Chlorine levels should be as low as possible, preferably below 2%. A special formulation called "blueberry special" is available and meets these requirements. Another possibility is "camellia-azalea" fertilizers.*

Peaches/ Nectarines/Plums (Year 2+): Fertilize late this month by broadcasting 1 to 1.5 pounds (2-3 cups) per tree of 12-4-8 fertilizer with micronutrients.

Pears: Broadcast 1/2 pound (1 cup) of 6-6-6 or 8-8-8 per year of age, up to 5 pounds (10 cups) total. Excessive fertilization should be avoided as it may make the tree more susceptible to fire blight.

February

Blackberries: Broadcast 1/4 to 1/2 pound (1/2 to 1 cup) of 10-10-10 fertilizer with micronutrients per plant or about 10 pounds (20 cups) per 100 foot row. (Newly planted blackberries should not be fertilized until late spring or summer.) *Note: Blackberries do not require much fertilizer in most soils in north Florida. Blackberry roots are located close to the surface and excess fertilizer can burn leaves or even kill plants.*

Blueberries (Established): *Year 2*: Fertilize using 2 ounces (4 TB) per plant of 12-4-8 with 2% magnesium (Mg). Spread fertilizer evenly over a circle 3 feet in diameter with the plant in the center. *Year 3+*: Fertilize using 3 ounces (6 TB) per plant of 12-4-8 with 2% magnesium (Mg). Spread fertilizer evenly over a 4 foot diameter circle, or broadcast in a continuous band 3 to 4 feet wide, centered on the plant row. *Note: These are general guidelines and should be adjusted based on plant performance. Cultivated blueberries suffer more from over-fertilization than from lack of fertilization. See above for additional fertilizer requirements.*

Citrus: Refer to Table 1 on page 4 for fertilizer recommendations.

Chestnuts (Year 2+): Apply 1 pound (2 cups) of 10-10-10 fertilizer for each year of age with a maximum of 7.5 pounds (15 cups) per tree this month.

Muscadine Grapes: Prune January to mid-March; remove tendrils and branches not needed for spurs and fruiting arms, leaving 2 to 3 buds per spur.


Peaches/Nectarines/Plums (Year 1): Broadcast 1/8 pound (1/4 cup) of 12-4-8 fertilizer with micronutrients.

Pecans (Established): Fertilize this month using 10-10-10 with micronutrients, 2 pounds (4 cups) per inch trunk diameter, measured one foot above the soil (2-4 lbs for bearing trees). Large trees (30 inches or more in diameter) may require 60 to 120 pounds of fertilizer. *Note: Fertilizer should contain Zinc (Zn) to prevent nutrient deficiencies.*


Upcoming Classes, Workshops & Events

- March 14 **Grow Your Own Gourmet Oyster Mushrooms**, 10:00am to 12:00pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL. Join us for a presentation and demonstration on how to grow your own mushrooms for a great nutritional food option. You can grow your own by purchasing a take-home mushroom starter kit for \$15 (while supplies last). Pre-order your kit today or call to pre-register and join the class for free.
- March 26 **Hydroponic Workshop**, 9:00am to 3:30pm, UF/IFAS Suwannee Valley Research Center, Live Oak, FL. Save the date—workshop and registration details coming soon to our website!
- April 5 **Spring Garden Festival**, 9:00am to 2:00pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL. Join us for the 6th Annual Spring Garden Festival sponsored by the UF/IFAS Baker County Extension Office and Master Gardener Volunteers! We'll have a variety of plant vendors for all your planting needs, gardening exhibits, and a garden rummage sale. While you're here you can also visit the Arboretum (garden of trees), purchase tickets and preview plant auction items for the 4-H Auction that evening (details coming soon), and enter to win auction tickets!
- April 22 **Earth Day in the Arboretum**, 6:00pm to 7:00pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL. Celebrate Earth Day with a guided tour of Baker County's Arboretum (garden of trees) and learn which unique tree species might be a good fit for your landscape. We'll also have a tree planting demo, tree give-away and scavenger hunts for youth to earn a 4-H summer day camp voucher!

Table 1: Citrus Fertilization Table



<i>Tree Age</i>	<i>Cups of Fertilizer per Application</i>			<i>Applications per year</i>
	<i>6-6-6</i>	<i>8-8-8</i>	<i>10-10-10</i>	
<i>1</i>	.5-1.5 cups	.5-1.25 cups		6
<i>2</i>	2-4 cups	1.5-3 cups		5
<i>3</i>	3.5-7 cups	2.75-5.5 cups		4
<i>4</i>	8.5-11.25 cups	6.5-8.25 cups	5.25-6.5 cups	3
<i>5+</i>	12-15.5 cups	9-11.5 cups	7.25-9.25 cups	3



**Year 1 starts at planting.*



Baker County Extension Service
1025 West Macclenny Avenue
Macclenny, FL 32063



Phone: (904) 259-3520

Email: alamborn@ufl.edu

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

For Extension Programs offered around the state, see the IFAS Extension Web Calendar at <http://calendar.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar/index.htm>.

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 ten (10) 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).