

Highlights in

Horticulture

Baker County

January 2015

Dear Extension Friends,

A big thanks to everyone who took our newsletter survey. To those that provided article topic suggestions, I appreciate the feedback and will do my best to cover everyone's request! Also consider attending one of the many classes and workshops we have planned for this year, including a series on Florida-Friendly Landscaping!

Best Regards,

Alicia

Alicia R. Lamborn
Horticulture Extension Agent
Baker County Extension Service

**2015
UF/IFAS
Extension
Calendars
Now
Available!**



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Upcoming Gardening Classes & Events

- January 16** **Hydroponics and Alternative Gardening Workshop, 10:00am to 11:30am, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL.** Join us for a presentation and demonstrations on hydroponic and alternative growing methods. Class space is limited. \$5 registration fee due by January 13th and includes a small take-home floating water garden ready to use in your own 5– gallon bucket.
- January 23** **Hydroponics and Alternative Gardening Workshop, 2:00pm to 3:30pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL.** Join us for a presentation and demonstrations on hydroponic and alternative growing methods. Class space is limited. \$5 registration fee due by January 20th and includes a small take-home floating water garden ready to use in your own 5– gallon bucket.
- February 20** **Growing Backyard Blueberries & Blackberries, 10:00am to 12:00pm, Baker County Extension Office, Macclenny, FL.** Topics include variety selection, preparing to plant, care and maintenance, and pest management. \$2 registration fee due by February 13th includes materials and light refreshments.
- 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.

It's Grape Pruning Time

After a grapevine has been trained, it must be pruned to keep it manageable and maximize fruit production. The best time for major pruning is mid-January to mid-March (dormant season), although touch-up pruning can be done during the growing season.

The standard rule is to remove last year's growth (fruiting wood), leaving spurs with 2 to 4 nodes, and spurs spaced about every 6 inches of cordon. Spur renewal may be needed every 3 to 6 years so that new fruiting wood (nodes) are never located more than a foot from the cordon. Spur thinning can be accomplished by removing entire spurs or part of them.

After 5 to 10 years, it is not uncommon for cordons to lose vigor or die. Simply select another young shoot to train along the wire and it will become your cordon the following year.

For more
Information:

[http://
edis.ifas.ufl.edu/
hs100](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs100)

Image Source:

[http://
mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/
grapes/vineyard/
Grape-
Pruning1_print.pdf](http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/grapes/vineyard/Grape-Pruning1_print.pdf)

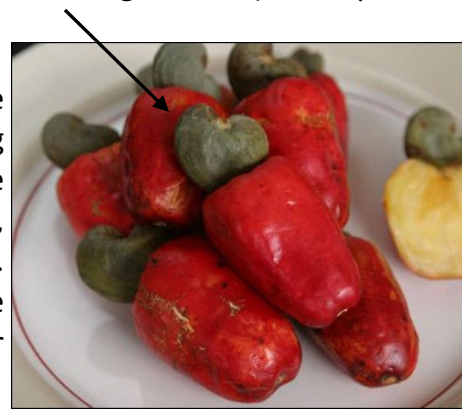
Did You Know?

*Here are some fun facts about the Cashew
(Anacardium occidentale)*

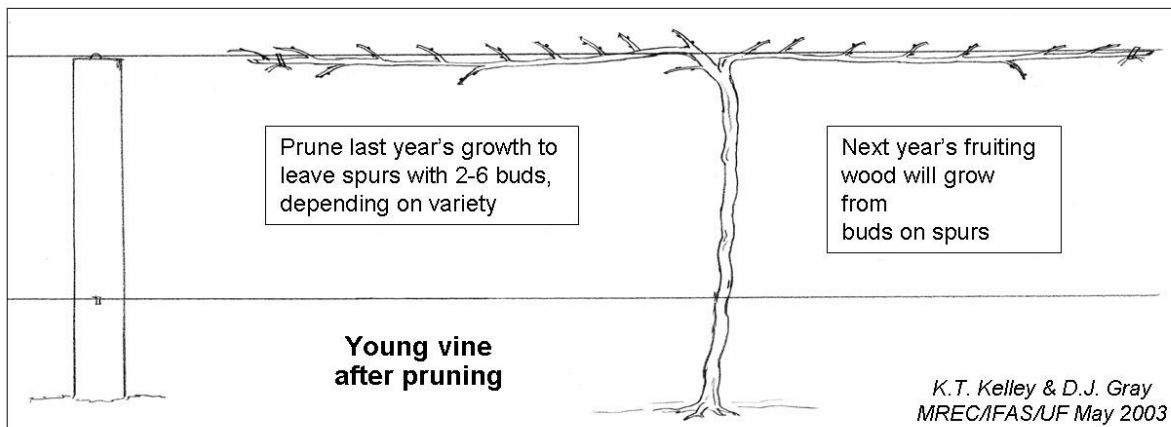
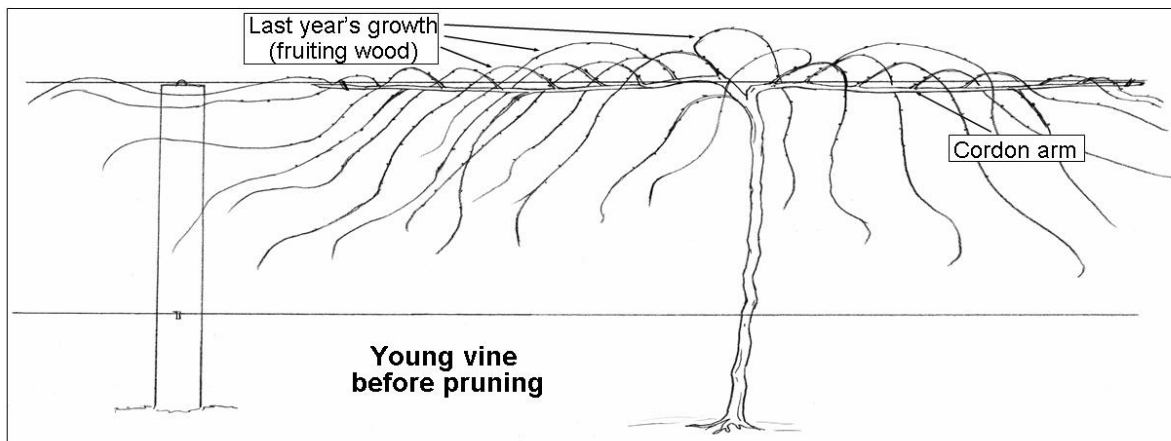
The cashew is a small, tropical tree that grows only in the warmest locations of extreme South Florida. But if you're ever on vacation and run into a cashew tree, you'll want to think twice before picking the nuts from the tree.

Panicles of flowers start out pale green then turn red-dish, and the red to yellow fruit that follows is pear shaped. A smooth, thin-shelled, grayish-green, kidney-shaped appendage (containing the nut) is suspended from the bottom end.

Great care must be exercised in handling raw nuts, since the shell contains thick, poisonous, caustic oil. The nut inside the shell is light tan or whitish and curved.



Pruning Muscadine Grapevines



K.T. Kelley & D.J. Gray
MREC/IFAS/UF May 2003

Dill, Fennel, and Parsley

Culinary Herbs & Butterfly Plants

Many edible gardens include herbs like dill, fennel, and parsley. But just because they are considered herbs, doesn't mean they can't be used as ornamentals in your butterfly garden. That's because these plants are also enjoyed by the Black Swallowtail Butterfly (right) whose brightly colored caterpillars (shown below) feed only on plants in the carrot family (which also includes cilantro and carrots) in order to complete their lifecycle. The flowers of dill and fennel also attract many beneficial insects and pollinators to the garden.



	<u><i>Dill</i></u>	<u><i>Fennel</i></u>	<u><i>Parsley</i></u>
<u>Growth Cycle:</u>	Annual	Perennial	Biennial
<u>Mature Size:</u>	up to 4' tall	up to 3' tall	up to 12" tall
<u>Plant Habit:</u>	Upright	Upright	Upright/Sprawling
<u>Foliage Color:</u>	Green	Green or Bronze	Green
<u>Flower Color:</u>	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow or White
<u>Exposure:</u>	Full Sun	Full Sun	Full Sun/Partial Shade
<u>Soil Tolerances:</u>	All are moderately drought tolerant; prefer moist, slightly acidic soils		
<u>Planting Dates:</u>	Nov-Dec or Spring	Fall or Early Winter	Late Fall or Winter
<u>Plant Spacing:</u>	12 inches	12 inches	6 inches
<u>Parts Used:</u>	seedheads (as needed)	seeds (when ripe) leaves (as needed)	leaves (as needed)

General Care & Growing Tips:

All three plants are best grown in cool temperatures for edible purposes. Bolting (flowering) tends to occur during warm weather, but attracts many beneficial insects to the garden. If you discover swallowtail caterpillars eating your plants, consider it a treat – not trouble. If you're worried there won't be any left for you, plant enough for the caterpillars to enjoy them also. Remember, they need these plants to complete their lifecycle. In North Florida, you may find caterpillars from early summer to fall, and while they made devour the plants, they usually won't kill them.



Since herbs are generally harvested in small portions and are also small in size, growing them in containers works well. Their attractiveness as an ornamental plant also makes them fit well into the home landscape, either in a border planting, or included in the flower garden.

Photo Credits: Donald Hall, University of Florida

Reference: Stephens, James M. (1998). *Herbs in the Florida Garden*. University of Florida. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh020>

Master Gardener Volunteer Corner

*A special thanks to our Baker County
Master Gardener Volunteers,
who dedicated a total of 458 hours
to the Extension Horticulture
Program during 2014:*

Jeanette Brown

Kyle Brown

Pat Collier

Cindy Jenkins

Roberta Koniuchowsky

Maggie Lyczak

Mac McDaniel

Mary Ann Ray

Billie Reeves

Anne Taylor

Karin Thomas



Master Gardener Volunteer Pat Collier Recognized with 10 Year Service Award



Pat Collier (left) is the first volunteer in Baker County to receive a 10-year service award for her continued dedication to the Master Gardener Program. Over her 10 year volunteer career, she has contributed a total of 556 volunteer hours to the Extension Office and has dedicated 106 hours to continuing her education for the good of the community.

Congratulations Pat!



Baker County Extension Service

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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).