

Highlights in

Horticulture

Baker County

January 2016

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Dear Extension Friends,

This month, we continue with article topics suggested by our readers. If there is a topic you would like to read about—please call our office or email requests to alamborn@ufl.edu. So far, I've received some really good suggestions, so please keep them coming! In the meantime, if you have a specific question or problem, please don't hesitate to ask for assistance.

Best Regards,

Alicia

Alicia R. Lamborn
Horticulture Extension Agent
Baker County Extension Service

Congratulations to Barbara Young!

Ms. Young attended a gardening class last year, completed an online survey, and was entered into a drawing for a thank you gift.

This year's gift was a City Pickers Patio Garden Kit (\$30 value). The planter box has a self-contained watering system which allows you to grow more while using less water and fertilizer.

Congratulations, Ms. Young, and thank you for supporting the Baker County Extension Service.

Tree Pruning Workshop

Friday, January 22nd

Sessions start at 10am & 2pm

Free workshop in the Arboretum

Pruning equipment provided,
or bring your own

Topics include: pruning equipment, proper pruning cuts, and pruning strategies for different tree species

Baker County Extension Office

Please call (904) 259-3520 for more info.

WHAT TO PLANT IN NORTH FLORIDA



JANUARY

FLOWERS

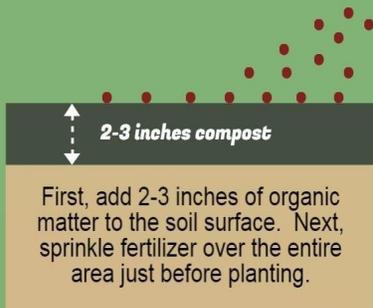
Alyssum Baby's Breath
 Calendula Delphinium
 Dianthus Dusty Miller
 Foxglove Hollyhock
 Ornamental Cabbage / Kale
 Pansy Petunia
 Snapdragon
 Viola

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>

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.

Pecans: Tree Management & Alternate Bearing

Pecan yield and quality are influenced by tree age, cultivar and management program. Certain precocious cultivars, as young as 6 years old, can produce a small crop (10 to 30 pounds per tree, but other cultivars such as 'Stuart' require 10 years to bear a crop. Trees planted at a high or moderate density approach maximum yield per acre, but can quickly become overcrowded, resulting in a reduction in yield. Few pecan orchards produce more than 1,500 pounds per acre over a sustained period of time.

Alternate bearing is a phenomenon where trees bear heavy and light crops in alternate years. Often, many or most cultivars can have high and low yields synchronously. In a high-yield year, water, nutrients and sugar production by photosynthesis are sufficient to mature a large quantity of nuts. Certainly plant hormones play a role as a plant signal in alternate bearing. It is likely that carbohydrate reserves will be depleted by the end of the on year and yield the following year (the off year) will be low. There is probably a natural tendency for alternate bearing as an adaptive response to reduce pest pressure by not allowing a consistent supply of nuts for pests every year.

Alternate bearing is accentuated by any factor(s) that can deplete the tree's energy reserves. This can include inadequate insect or disease control, insufficient fertilization, lack of water and tree overcrowding. Diagnosing the actual cause of alternate bearing can



be difficult. Premature defoliation can enhance the depletion of carbohydrate reserves and can be a predictor of low yield the following year. Premature defoliation during late summer can exacerbate alternate bearing because of the depletion of carbohydrates associated with the formation of new leaves. If possible, healthy foliage should be maintained until the first frost in November.

Continued on page 4...

Tree Trimming: Why, When, & How



Why Prune: Always have a reason for pruning and never randomly remove branches.

Some reasons include:

- ◆ Improve tree health by removing dead, damaged, and diseased limbs.
- ◆ Improve tree structure by removing or reducing limbs with included bark, and co-dominant stems.
- ◆ Train young, fast growing trees to avoid structural problems in the years to come.
- ◆ Remove lower branches for safe passage.

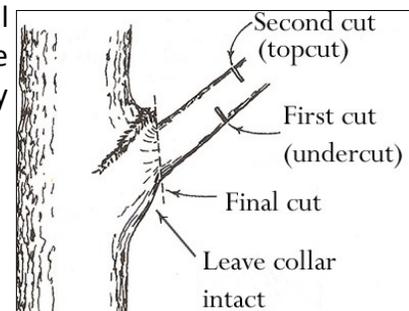
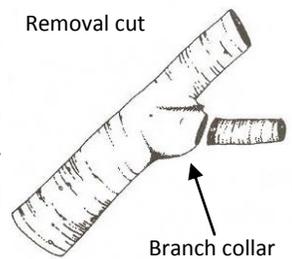
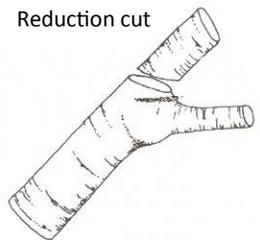
When To Prune: In North Florida, pruning of landscape trees is best done late January through February, just before new spring growth begins but while plants are still dormant. If severe pruning is needed, it should be carried out over several years. Spring-flowering trees may be the exception, since flower buds are removed with each cut.

Before You Prune:

- ◆ Give your equipment a good cleaning to make sure you aren't transferring diseases from one plant to another.
- ◆ Allow pruners to sit in a disinfecting solution before or after use. If you are pruning a diseased plant, disinfect between each cut. You can use an extra pair while the other is soaking.
- ◆ Tools should be soaked for at least 5 minutes (or as directed on product label) and rinsed with clean water or allowed to air dry before use. A longer soaking period may be needed for tool surfaces that aren't smooth.
- ◆ Disinfecting solutions include a 25% solution of household bleach or pine oil cleaner (Pine-Sol), a 50% solution of rubbing alcohol (70% isopropyl) or denatured ethanol (95%), a 10% solution of trisodium phosphate, quaternary ammonium salts (use as directed), or full strength household disinfectants (Lysol, etc.).

How To Prune: The ability to properly prune a tree comes with both training and experience. However, all you really need to know to get started is how to make proper pruning cuts.

- ◆ **There are two basic pruning cuts:** a reduction cut and a removal cut (see illustrations).
 - Reduction cut: shortens the length of a stem by pruning back to a smaller limb.
 - Removal cut: prunes a branch back to the trunk or the parent branch.
 - Never cut a stem to an indiscriminate length, leaving a stub. Never "top" a tree; topping is an inappropriate (though common among crape myrtles) technique used to reduce tree size that often initiates decay and causes other problems.
- ◆ **Avoid flush cuts:** When removing a branch, never make a flush cut by removing part of the branch collar. The branch collar is the swollen area at the base of a branch where it joins the trunk or parent branch that results from overlapping trunk and branch tissue. When making pruning cuts, avoiding this area will prevent the spread of decay from the cut limb into other parts of the tree. Extreme care should be taken when the branch collar is not as pronounced or the collar is not visible at all. Just remember that a good pruning cut should be round instead of oval-shaped (oval usually means the collar has been removed).
- ◆ **For branches larger than one inch in diameter:** Follow the steps for removal (illustrated lower right) to avoid injury to the tree. This technique reduces the weight of the branch and avoids the branch from being "ripped" or "peeled" away from the tree.



When pruning trees of any size, always be sure to use the correct equipment and take precautionary measures to ensure your safety and the health of the tree. Hiring a certified arborist to do the job for you is also never a bad idea. Find a certified arborist at:

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/findanarborist/arboristsearch.aspx>

WANT MORE TRAINING? JOIN US FOR A FREE HANDS-ON LESSON IN THE ARBORETUM ON JANUARY 22ND—SESSIONS START AT 10AM AND 2PM—PRUNING EQUIPMENT PROVIDED, OR BRING YOUR OWN—CALL (904) 259-3520 FOR INFO.

Illustration credits: Edward F. Gilman, Professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, IFAS, University of Florida.

Master Gardener Volunteer Corner

Baker County Master Gardeners are professionally trained volunteers who help the Extension Office share unbiased, research-based gardening information with the community.

In 2015, our 11 volunteers dedicated a total of 462 hours to the program by disseminating information to over 275 individuals and working on projects like the butterfly demonstration garden and horticulture therapy gardens.

2015 Recognitions:

* Ms. Mary Ann Ray received a 10-year service award and a 500 hour pin for her continued dedication to the Master Gardener Program. Over her 10 year volunteer career, she contributed a total of 520 volunteer hours to the Extension Office and dedicated 136 hours to continuing her education.



Master Gardener Coordinator, Alicia Lamborn presents Ms. Mary Ann Ray with her 10-year service award.

* Ms. Karin Thomas received a 5-year service award. Karin has contributed 167 volunteer hours to the Extension Office and spent 43 hours continuing her education.

If you or someone you know might be interested in joining the Baker County Master Gardener Volunteer Program, more information can be found at:

http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/master_gardener.html

Pecans (continued from page 2)

Recommended cultivars for North Florida:

'Elliott': Strong wood; moderate producer. Nut size is small, typically 5.5 g (82 nuts per pound). Kernel color is bright, and quality and flavor are excellent. Resistance to scab and leaf diseases is good.

'Moreland': A strong tree with consistently high yields in North Florida. Nut size is about 8.2 g (55 nuts per pound). Color is somewhat bright and quality is high. Its tolerance to scab and other leaf diseases is moderate to high.

'Sumner': 'Sumner' is a largely overlooked pecan cultivar. It is a moderately strong tree and nuts are large (9.5 g, 48 nuts per pound). Overall nut quality is good, although kernels can be somewhat dark. It has a high resistance to scab and other leaf diseases, but is susceptible to black pecan aphids.

Fertilize established trees with about 2 pounds of 10-10-10 pecan fertilizer for each inch of trunk diameter (measure 1 foot above the soil) during the winter and summer. If tree growth is less than 2 feet per year, the quantity of fertilization should be toward the higher end of this rate.

Fertilize bearing trees with 2-4 pounds of 10-10-10 pecan fertilizer per inch of trunk diameter in February and again in June. Some growers prefer to bury fertilizer at 10 or more sites below the tree canopy to reduce runoff and increase fertilizer use efficiency compared to a broadcast application. Large trees (30 inches or more in diameter) may require 60 to 120 pounds of fertilizer in February and again in June. Conversions to per acre rates can be performed by multiplying the number of trees per acre by the above rates.

Excepted from: Andersen, P.C. and Crocker, T.E. (2004). *The Pecan Tree*. University of Florida. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs229>



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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).