



Highlights in

# Horticulture

Baker County

July 2014

Dear Extension Friends,

Now that the weather has heated up for summer, you may find yourself working in the yard less. But if you notice something that isn't quite right while strolling through the garden, we can help! Just give Dr. Kyle Brown a call (office hours listed below) to discuss the symptoms and he can provide you with information and advice.

Best Regards,

Alicia R. Lamborn  
Horticulture Extension Agent  
Baker County Extension Service

**Inside this issue:**

Orange-Dog Caterpillars on Citrus	2
Theme Gardens: 4th of July	3
Fruit Tree Calendar: July	4

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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!

<https://www.facebook.com/UFIFASBakerCountyGardenSpot>

## Need Gardening Advice? Call the Plant Doctor!

Dr. Kyle Brown, a retired horticulture professor, is available to assist residents with their plant questions and problems.

The Baker County Extension Office can also provide printed information at no charge on just about any subject.

Dr. Brown's Office Hours:  
Monday — Friday, 1pm to 5pm

Phone: (904) 259-3520

Email: bakermg@ifas.ufl.edu

# Orange-Dog Caterpillars on Citrus: Friend or Foe?

If you notice chew marks on your citrus tree this summer, you likely have “orangedogs” feeding on the foliage. But should these creatures be considered pests? Well, that depends...

The giant swallowtail is a striking, beautiful butterfly that is abundant in Florida. The adult butterfly is a welcome visitor to butterfly gardens and to general landscape plantings. The larval or caterpillar stage feeds on a variety of host plant species, but is sometimes considered a pest due to its habit of feeding on the foliage of most *Citrus*.



The giant swallowtail butterfly looks like dappled sunlight hitting a dark leaf from above (left), while the broken pattern on the underside of its wings helps conceal it from predators (right).



For those unfamiliar with this species, you may notice chewing damage but not immediately see the culprit. This is because the caterpillars defend themselves against predators by being less visible through cryptic coloration and pattern, resembling bird droppings. Younger caterpillars are more realistic bird-dropping mimics because of their smaller size, and often rest in plain view on the upper surfaces of leaves where bird droppings would be expected. Mature larvae usually rest on stems or leaf petioles.

In addition to being less visible to predators, larvae possess an osmeterium, an orange or reddish Y-shaped eversible gland that is located on the head. When attacked by predators, the larva extrudes the gland and attempts to wipe it against the attacker. On large caterpillars this gland contains a highly noxious, pungent mixture of chemicals that smells like rancid butter. And while it is only repellent and toxic to small predators, such as ants and spiders, it can also be alarming when/if you happen to touch one of these creatures.



So what should you do if you find these creatures on your citrus? Are they really a problem? Well, homeowners may find that just a few larvae of the giant swallowtail can defoliate small or young plants. In this case, larvae should be hand picked from these small plants so that blossom and fruit yield are not drastically reduced. However, large mature dooryard trees can withstand some defoliation without affecting yields and therefore larvae can be tolerated in order to enjoy the soon-to-develop magnificent adult butterfly stage.

The giant swallowtail butterfly chrysalis often goes unnoticed by blending in with the twig it attaches to.

Adapted and excerpted from: McAuslane, H. J. (1997). Giant Swallowtail, Orangedog, *Papilio cresphontes* Cramer. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in134>

# Theme Gardens: 4th of July

Celebrate July 4th all season with these colorful red, white and blue plants!

## RED

### Firecracker Plant (*Russelia equisetiformis*)

Plant in partial shade to full sun; scarlet tubular flowers resemble small firecrackers; attracts hummingbirds



## WHITE

### Natchez Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia* x)

Plant in full sun; white flowers in summer; disease resistant



## BLUE

### King's Mantle (*Thunbergia erecta*)

Plant in full sun; bright, blue flowers with yellow throats in summer



Credits:

[www.pousadajardimdoeden.com.br/plantas\\_flores\\_ervas/Thunbergia\\_erecta/](http://www.pousadajardimdoeden.com.br/plantas_flores_ervas/Thunbergia_erecta/)

### Brazilian Firecracker Vine (*Manettia cordifolia*)

Plant in partial shade to full sun; red tubular flowers summer to fall; attracts butterflies & hummingbirds



### Shasta Daisy (*Leucanthemum* x)

Plant in full sun; white flowers in summer; attracts butterflies.



### Blue Plumbago (*Plumbago auriculata*)

Plant in full sun; blue flowers in spring to fall; attracts butterflies



### Scarlet Sage (*Salvia splendens*)

Plant in full sun; red flowers summer to fall; attracts butterflies and hummingbirds



### White Periwinkle (*Vinca* sp.)

Plant in full sun; white flowers in summer; attracts butterflies.



### Blue Daze (*Evolvulus glomeratus*)

Plant in full sun; spreading, mounding annual; blue flowers appear spring to fall



# Fruit Tree Calendar: July

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.

**Blackberries:** Fertilize after harvest using 1/4 to 1/2 pound (1/2 to 1 cup) of 10-10-10 with micronutrients per plant or about 10 pounds (20 cups) per 100 foot row.

**Muscadine Grapes:** *Year 2:* Fertilize June or July using 1 pound (2 cups) of 8-8-8 or 10-10-10; apply the fertilizer in bands about 1 foot to either side of the vine. *Year 3+:* Fertilize June or July using up to 3 pounds (6 cups) of 8-8-8 or 10-10-10; apply the fertilizer in bands about 1 foot to either side of the vine.  
*Note: It is sometimes beneficial to apply fertilizer that has micronutrients added.*

**Peaches/ Nectarines/Plums (Year 1):** Fertilize this month using 1/2 pound (1 cup) per tree of 12-4-8 fertilizer with micronutrients.

**Pomegranate:** Fruit matures this month and continues through November.



Blackberry fruits hanging from a vine.

Photo credit: Larry Korhnak, University of Florida

**Table 1: Citrus Fertilization Table**

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

*\*Year 1 starts at planting.*



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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).