



Highlights in

Horticulture

Baker County

June 2014

Dear Extension Friends,

Please see the announcement below regarding the changes to our Horticulture Team here in the Baker County Extension Office. We hope to make the transition as smooth as possible for our clientele. As always, if you have any questions please let us know.

Best Regards,

Alicia R. Lamborn
Horticulture Extension Agent
Baker County Extension Service

Inside this issue:

Mole Cricket Mayhem	2
The Basswood Tree	2
Fruit Tree Calendar: June	3–4
Citrus Fertilization Table	4

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Have you heard the news?

Alicia will be on maternity leave for several months starting in June.



While she is away, Dr. Kyle Brown, a retired horticulture professor, will be filling in to assist residents with their plant questions and problems. Baker County Master Gardeners will also be available to assist you during this time.

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

Phone: (904) 259-3520

Email: bakermg@ifas.ufl.edu

Mole Cricket Mayhem

Each year I receive questions about mole crickets, but this year the number seems to have increased. So what can be done about these pesky mole crickets damaging lawns and other plants? There are actually several management options, including both chemical and biological (non-chemical) control options.

But before you wage war with the mole crickets, you'll want to conduct a soap flush to be sure they are present in damaging numbers that require control. Mix 2 TBSP of lemon dishwashing soap with water in a 2 gallon sprinkling can, pour over a 4 square foot area near the damage, and see what emerges within 3 minutes. Check several places in the lawn; consider control if more than 2 to 4 crickets are found per square foot (or 8-16 mole crickets per 4 sq. foot area).

Liquid and granular formulations of insecticides are commonly used to suppress mole crickets. In some cases, insecticide application should be followed by irrigation because the insecticide must enter the root zone of the plants to be most effective, but this is an insecticide-specific requirement so the insecticide label should be read carefully for application directions. Bait formulations are also useful, but are incompatible with irrigation and rainfall. Mole crickets feed at night so baits should be applied in the early evening.

Looking for non-chemical management options? Biological control of mole crickets can be enhanced by the application of the beneficial nematode *Steinernema scapterisci* which can be purchased from commercial suppliers, sprayed as a suspension in water to soil, and is fairly persistent in the soil. It is more effective when applied to adult crickets than when applied to nymphs.

Another non-chemical option is a parasitic wasp called *Larra bicolor* which can't be purchased, but can be attracted to your yard by planting the wasp's preferred nectar source, a wildflower called *Spermacoce verticillata* (southern Larraflower), as well as *Chamaecrista fasciculata* (partridge pea).

For more information, visit:

- <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in391>
- http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_biological_control_of_mole_crickets
- http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/fasulo/molecrickets/mcricket2010_wasps.htm

The Basswood Tree

While most flowering trees bloom in early Spring, the Basswood tree (also known as the American Linden tree) blooms in June! Abundant clusters of very fragrant, light yellow flowers are extremely attractive to bees, who make a delicious honey from their harvests.



Photo credit: <http://badger.uvm.edu/omeka/exhibits/show/uvmtrees/item/1133>

The small, grey nut which is later produced will persist on the tree until midwinter.

The heart-shaped leaves are dark green, fading to pale green or yellow before dropping in autumn.

A striking specimen tree if you have the room – often 40 to 50 feet in height with a spread of 35 to 40 feet, although the tree can reach as much as 80 to 100 feet!

To get an up close look at a Basswood, visit the Baker County Arboretum at the Extension Office.



For more information, check out:
<http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Arboretum/AmericanBasswood.html>

Fruit Tree Calendar: June



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).



Apples: Fertilize this month using 10-10-10 with micronutrients, esp. Zinc and Boron; apply 1 pound (2 cups) of fertilizer for each year of age, up to 7.5 pounds (15 cups).

Blueberries: Year 1: Fertilize using 1 ounce (2 TB) per plant of 12-4-8 with 2% magnesium (Mg). If plants are mulched heavily, use 1.5 ounces (3 TB) per plant per application rather than 1 ounce. Spread fertilizer evenly over a circle 2 feet in diameter with the plant in the center. 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. Slightly more fertilizer may be required if plants are heavily mulched. However, more often than not, cultivated blueberries suffer more from over-fertilization than from lack of fertilization. Use ammoniacal nitrogen or nitrogen from urea or organic sources, rather than from nitrate sources. Chlorine levels should be low, preferably below 2%. Special formulations such as "blueberry special" and "camellia-azalea" fertilizers are available in Florida and meet these requirements.*



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.

Figs: Pruning should occur only as needed and after fruit ripening (early summer) to allow for flower-bud initiation for the next year. For late-maturing cultivars, pruning may result in a significant reduction in yield the next year.

Muscadine Grapes (Year 1): Fertilize this month using 1/4 pound (1/2 cup) 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.*

Pears: Apply 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.

Pecans (Newly Planted): A soil fertility test should be conducted prior to planting and no fertilizer should be placed in the planting hole during installation. Year 1: Fertilize early this month using 10-10-10 with micronutrients, 1 pound (2 cups) per tree. Year 2: Fertilize early this month using 10-10-10 with micronutrients, 2 pounds (4 cups) per tree. *Note: Fertilizer should contain Zinc (Zn) to prevent nutrient deficiencies. Do not apply fertilizer in a clump around the base of tree, instead spread out the fertilizer in a circle with a 3- to 5-foot diameter around the trunk of the tree. Avoid putting any fertilizer directly against the trunk.*



Continued on page 4....

Fruit Tree Calendar: June

Continued from page 3...

Pecans (Established): June 1st – Commercial pecan growers should submit leaf samples for nutrient testing; sample 25 leaflet pairs from fully expanded leaves in the mid-portion of the terminal growth. Pick up a ‘Plant Tissue Test Information Sheet’ from the Extension Office for further information on submitting a sample.

Pecans (Established): Fertilize this month according to nutrient test results. Otherwise, use general recommendations: Apply 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. Some growers prefer to bury fertilizer at 10 or more sites below the tree canopy compared to a broadcast application.*

Persimmons: Apply second of three applications of fertilizer; fertilize using 1/2 to 1 pound (1-2 cups) of 10-10-10 with micronutrients per year of age. All three applications should not exceed 10-15 pounds (20-30 cups) per year and therefore no more than 10 cups per application.

To see the entire fruit tree calendar, visit: http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/documents/MonthlyCalendar_FruitsandNuts_002.pdf

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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