

Highlights in

# Horticulture

Baker County

November 2014

Dear Extension Friends,

Thanks to everyone who supported our fall fundraiser by purchasing strawberries and daffodils. This was the first year that strawberry plants sold out before even being delivered! Over 400 strawberry plants were donated to school gardens located at MES, WES, BCMS, BCHS and to the All County 4-H Club greenhouse project, and the money raised will provide supplies for more educational projects. Thanks again for your support!

Best Regards,

*Alicia*

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## Join Us On Facebook!



UF IFAS Extension Baker County Garden Spot

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

You'll receive gardening tips, reminders on what to do in your garden, plus notices on upcoming classes and events! You'll also be able to comment on articles, ask questions, test your knowledge with featured trivia questions, and win free plants!

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

## Happy Thanksgiving!



## Think Twice Before Over-seeding Lawns with Winter Rye

Some folks like the idea of planting a temporary grass, such as ryegrass, to provide a green lawn all winter long. While lush green grass during winter can be an advantage, it can also come with some disadvantages.

Take the following information into careful consideration before planting winter rye this season:

**You'll need to water your overseeded lawn frequently until it has germinated.** Your lawn's growth is slowing this time of year, getting ready to go dormant for the winter season. This means that the lawn requires even less water than it did during the active growing season, and overwatering now could result in many problems, including root rot.

**Once the winter lawn is established, it will require watering, mowing, and fertilizing.** Once the winter lawn is established and actively growing, your summer lawn should be "sleeping". Applying water and fertilizer to the winter lawn will only force your summer lawn out of dormancy, making it more susceptible to cold injury, decline, and possibly death. The added mowing will of course drive up your maintenance costs, and if not collected, clippings can contribute to excess thatch buildup.

**Grasses used for over-seeding will die off as temperatures rise in the spring.** Pythium Blight is a disease that affects cool-season turfgrasses overseeded as winter cover, but can also affect Bermuda lawns. The disease occurs during wet periods and high temperatures, sometimes typical of spring. The pathogen can kill seedlings as well as established turf. If you lawn is planted with a species other than Bermuda, you shouldn't have to worry about this disease, but should still consider the effects of the dying winter lawn on thatch buildup.

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Ultimately, the choice is yours and perhaps taking a low maintenance approach with your winter lawn will protect your summer lawn from some of these possible negative consequences.



## FALL Color in Florida

*Our Florida trees may not display the most brilliant fall color in the country, but there are many species that can be quite impressive under the right conditions.*

The fall colors that we enjoy are the result of changing concentrations of pigments in leaves. For some plants, chlorophyll (green pigment) production decreases in the fall while the concentrations of carotenoids (pigments responsible for the orange and yellow hues) and anthocyanins (pigments responsible for red and purple colors) increase. So why do we get to enjoy fall color in Florida some years but not others? Well that has to do with the weather, since colors develop best in response to the shorter days/longer nights of autumn, and the steady, gradual change in weather to warm, sunny days and cool nights.

If you are interested in planting for fall leaf color, consider finding a spot for some of the following plants in your landscape:



- Florida Maple — yellow, followed by orange & red
- Red Maple — red, purple
- White Ash — yellow, purple
- Sweetgum — yellow, orange, red, purple
- River Birch — yellow
- Flowering Dogwood — red to maroon
- Sourwood — red, orange
- Rusty Blackhaw — scarlet red to purple
- Black Gum — scarlet red to purple (shown above)
- American Elm — yellow (shown below)
- 'Bradford' Pear — yellow, orange, red, purple
- Oak-leaf Hydrangea — yellow, orange, red, burgundy



Keep in mind that the intensity of fall leaf color for some of these species may depend on the planting site, including the amount of sun the plant receives.

**Visit the Arboretum:** Many of the species listed above are located in the arboretum at the Baker County Extension office which is open to visitors during business hours.

# Holiday Decorations & Silverfish

*As you pull down your boxes of holiday decorations this fall and winter, don't be surprised if you find more than decorations. A common pest typically encountered this time of year is the silverfish.*

Silverfish are small insects, about ½" long, and range in color from silver to grey. They are wingless and have slender, carrot-shaped bodies that are covered with scales. Two long slender antennae are attached to their heads and three long tail-like appendages at the hind end.

Silverfish are common in homes and can be found in places with high humidity and little airflow. They are active at night and hide during the day in places such as closets, bookcases, cabinets, and behind baseboards. They cause damage in the home by eating foods or other materials that are high in protein, sugar or starch. They eat cereals, moist wheat flour, paper on which there is glue or paste, book bindings, starch in clothing, and rayon fabrics.



Because they prefer dark, cluttered areas to live and breed, silverfish can be tricky to control. Sanitation can help prevent infestations but will not eliminate current infestations. Follow these simple tips to manage or prevent infestations:

Seal or remove hiding places — Sealing up cracks and crevices around plumbing, wall molding, and windowsills will help eliminate places for them to hide.

Eliminate clutter—Removing cardboard boxes and old newspapers eliminates food sources and harborage. Vacuuming can physically remove silverfish.

Reduce humidity — Silverfish need high humidity to survive.

Insecticides — If necessary, sprays should be applied to floors and wall moldings, behind drawers, under furniture, in cracks and crevices, and the floor and ceiling of attics. Outside, treat eaves, mulched flower beds, and storage sheds. Control may not be immediate because hiding insects must come out and contact spray residue.

Article adapted and excerpted from: P. G. Koehler, D. Branscome, F. M. Oi and B. E. Bayer. (2003). *Booklice and Silverfish*. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/jg094>

Photos by Lyle J. Buss, Entomology & Nematology Dept., University of Florida

# November Fruit Tree Calendar: Pomegranate

*Pomegranates are the only fruiting plants that require fertilizer this month. Recommendations are for optimum growth and production. Applying less fertilizer is also acceptable, but the total amount should not exceed these recommendations.*

**Pomegranate:** Fertilize this month using 8-8-8 or similar: young trees need 2 to 2.5 pounds (4-5 cups) per tree and mature trees need 4.5 to 6.5 pounds (9-11 cups). *Note: Excessive or late applications of fertilizer tend to delay fruit maturity and reduce color and quality.*

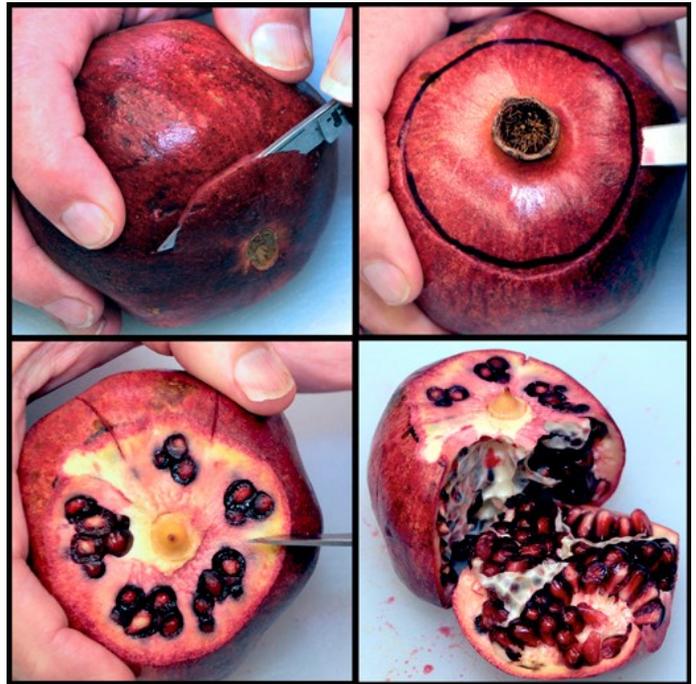
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## How To Eat A Pomegranate:

Pomegranates in North Florida mature from July to November.

To eat a fresh pomegranate, slice off a piece of the skin on the stem end to create a flat surface (upper left); ring the blossom end to remove a "cap" of the skin and expose the interior of the fruit (upper right); score the skin along each side of the segments (lower left) and then pull the fruit apart (lower right) to expose the seeds which are then easily removed from the supporting tissue.

Seeds are each surrounded by a pink to purplish-red, juicy pulp (arils), which is the edible portion. The pulp is somewhat astringent, but can be quite tasty. They can be used as a garnish in fruit cups, compotes, salads, desserts, and as a snack. The juice is used to make jellies, puddings, desserts, and drinks.



Information provided by:

<http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/pomegranates/eat.shtml>

(Jeff Moersfelder, USDA National Clonal Germplasm Repository, Davis, CA, provided the method; Kathy Snyder, CREC, provided the images and an unknown California grower provided the fruit.)

For pomegranate recipes, visit:

<http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/pomegranates/recipes.shtml>



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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).