



Highlights in

Horticulture

Baker County

September 2015

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Dear Extension Friends,

The Baker County Fair is just around the corner and the Master Gardeners would like to invite you to show a plant or two (or three, or four...) in this year's horticulture exhibit. Kids can show too and all exhibitors will receive a free entry pass into the fair to see the exhibit. So whether you have something rare or common—if it is special to you, they want to see it in the show! Don't miss out on this fun event. Questions? Call Cindy at 259-9517.

Best Regards,

Alicia

Alicia R. Lamborn
Horticulture Extension Agent
Baker County Extension Service



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

Upcoming Workshop

Dripline Irrigation and the Landscape

Friday, October 2nd

Choose your session: 10am or 3pm

Drip irrigation is a great way to cut costs on water. It is also more effective at providing water directly to the root zone of plants. This workshop discusses the importance of protecting Florida's water resources and will show you how to install a system at home.

Workshop is free but seating is limited; RSVP by calling (904) 259-3520.

Course taught by Taylor Clem, a Ph.D. candidate in University of Florida's Department of Environmental Horticulture. For more information call the Baker County Extension Office or contact Taylor Clem at taylorclem87@ufl.edu



Winterize Your Lawn This Month

September is the final month to fertilize your lawn and prepare it for the winter ahead, also known as “winterizing” your lawn. You have probably heard about using a “winterizer” fertilizer on your lawn to enhance winter hardiness. But is it true? It is if you use the right fertilizer. Lawn winterizers should contain low amounts of nitrogen (N) and higher amounts of potassium (K), and contrary to some claims should not be applied during winter. With shorter days and cooler temperatures just around the corner, the lawn will begin to slow its growth and by applying a high nitrogen fertilizer this late in the year, the natural cycle of the lawn will be disrupted by the nitrogen forcing the lawn to grow. When fertilizing this late in the year, potassium is the most important, since it has been shown to alleviate stress, including the effects of cold temperatures, drought, and traffic. It will even help your lawn green up faster come spring.



It is important to note that not all winterizers have an increased potassium to nitrogen ratio. Fertilizers generally have three numbers on the label which represent nitrogen (first number), phosphorus (second number), and potassium (third number). Unless your soil test results indicate a phosphorus deficiency (soil testing is available through the Baker County Extension Office) then you will want to select a fertilizer containing no phosphorus. Examples of an appropriate winterizer for your lawn include a 5-0-15, 10-0-14, and 12-0-15. An alternative option is to apply potassium in the form of potash at an application rate of 1/2 to 1 pound of potassium per 1,000 square feet of lawn. Avoid winterizers such as 24-0-12, a common analysis marketed by some major companies. The high nitrogen will green your lawn up quickly, but will leave it more susceptible to other problems. These high nitrogen winterizers are really more appropriate for northern grasses than for southern grasses at this time of year.

Fertilizers should be applied at a rate determined by the amount (%) of nitrogen present in the fertilizer. Use the chart below to determine the approximate weight of fertilizer to use for a given lawn area in pounds (first number) and also in cups (second number) to deliver the recommended rate.

% Nitrogen in Fertilizer Bag

Area (sq ft)	6% N	10% N	12% N	15% N
100	13.3 oz 1 ¾ cup	8 oz 1 cup	6.7 oz 14 TB	5.3 oz ¾ cup
1000	8.4 lbs 17 ½ cups	5 lbs 9 ½ cups	4.2 lbs 8 ¾ cups	3.3 lbs 7 ¼ cups
1500	13 lbs 26 ¼ cups	7.5 lbs 14 ¼ cups	6.5 lbs 13 cups	4.9 lbs 11 cups
3000	25.2 lbs 52 ¼ cups	15 lbs 28 ½ cups	12.6 lbs 26 cups	9.8 lbs 21 ¾ cups
5000	42 lbs 87 ¼ cups	25 lbs 47 ½ cups	21 lbs 43 ½ cups	16.4 lbs 36 ½ cups

Kale

Kale is a cool season cooking green which can be planted in North Florida from September to February. Plants that are seeded 12 to 18 inches apart should be ready for harvest 2-3 months later. Leaves can be stripped off as needed to allow for continued growth and harvesting all winter long.

Kale plants are easy to grow and don't require any special attention. If sand sticking to the curly leaves after harvest has deterred you from growing this plant again, try a variety with flatter leaves.

With so many varieties, colors, textures and flavors there is surely a kale to suit any taste. Some that are proven performers in Florida include Vates Dwarf Blue Curled, Tuscan, Winterbor, and Redbor.

Vates Dwarf Blue Curled: a commonly grown variety with heavily crinkled, bluish-green leaves.



Tuscan: dark green, non-curved leaves are heavily blistered (savoyed); rich, tender leaves have a softer texture than curly green kales. Tolerant of hot and cold weather.



Winterbor: a standard dark green, curled kale; leaves are well-curved and ruffled.



Redbor: similar to Winterbor but frilly leaves are a deep purple-red color. Flavor, color, and curling are enhanced by cold weather.

And in case you are wondering, the 'Flowering Kale' grown as an ornamental during winter is both attractive and edible, although not very palatable. I'm told it can be rather bitter.

Photos borrowed from Johnny's Selected Seeds at www.johnnyseeds.com

Daffodil Bulbs

The Baker County Master Gardeners are once again selling daffodil bulbs to raise money for educational activities and youth gardening programs.

These daffodil varieties are recommended by the Florida Daffodil Society and should be planted in fall for blooms January—March.

Autumn Colors — Autumn Colors is a group of daffodils; colors range from white to dark yellow; cups are white, yellow or orange-red, and often frilled; 8-15 flowers per stem, sometimes up to 25-30; fragrant; height and bloom time varies. **We are receiving a mix—order several bulbs for a delightful surprise!**

Avalanche — Called 'Seventeen Sisters' in the past due to the 15-20 flowers per stem. White petals with light yellow cup; sweetly fragrant; forces easily. 16"-18" **Mid March**



Ceylon — Strong yellow flower—has orange cup with a red rim. Good in partial shade. Tall, strong bloomer. Flower color does not fade. 14-16" **Mid-February**

Golden Dawn — Bright yellow petals with golden orange cup. Very fragrant. Full sun to partial shade. Good performer for hot climates. 14-16" **February-March**



Itzum — Medium-size yellow flower with swept back and a yellow trumpet that slowly turns bright orange. Takes full sun or afternoon shade. Up to 12" tall. **Early March**

Monal — Strong overlapping petals with large, deep orange straight cup. Needs good drainage. Tolerates afternoon shade. 16-18" **March**



\$1 per bulb

Bulk pre-orders accepted.

Pre-order your bulbs today by calling
(904) 259-3520

All varieties are subject to availability.
Pre-orders are reserved (pay at pickup) but unclaimed orders will be re-sold.

It's Time to Get Your Plants Ready for the Fair!

The horticulture exhibit at the Baker County Fair gives local gardeners of all ages a chance to show off their plants. Adult and youth entries follow the same judging procedures but are judged separately, and it doesn't cost anything to participate. In fact, you can earn some cash for each plant you show plus you'll receive a free entrance pass to come see what you've won. All types of plants are accepted but only qualified entries receive a ribbon and cash prize. It's easy to qualify, but now is the time to get your plants ready to show.

To qualify: All plants must have been grown by you, and in your possession for at least three months prior to the fair. All plants must be free from disease and insects. **Other helpful tips:** Remember to rotate your plant regularly so that it looks full and symmetrical. Grooming your plants to remove leaves with holes and dead tips is usually necessary before the show. **Entries:** You may enter up to 25 plants, but not more than one of the same cultivar or variety of plant. Categories include: Flowering/Fruiting (must have flowers or fruit), Foliage Plants (plants grown for foliage; without flowers/fruit), Special Display (container garden, mounted, or topiary), Bonsai, Cacti & Succulents, Hanging Plants (hanging baskets or mounted plants meant to hang), and Patio Plants (containers 14" or larger).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR HORTICULTURE ENTRIES:

Entries accepted: Tuesday, Sept. 29th from 12pm-7pm & Wednesday, Sept. 30th from 9am—3pm

Plant Pick-up: Sunday, October 11th from 1pm—5pm

Fair Rules: Available from the Baker County Extension Office, and at www.bakercountyfair.com

Questions? Call Cindy Jenkins, Horticulture Chairperson @ 259-9517

Judging procedures: If you are intimidated about showing plants at the fair, don't be! Showing plants at the fair is a fun, learning experience. Here's how the judging works: **Round 1:** Judges look at each plant individually, judging it based on health of the plant and general appearance when compared to the standard for that particular plant species (the standard is how that particular plant is supposed to look). Plants are awarded a 1st (blue), 2nd (red), or 3rd (white) place ribbon and judges may write comments on your entry tag that they believe might help you score higher next year. **Round 2:** Judges select plants worthy of an 'Award of Merit' ribbon, and may compare blue ribbon plants to each other since they are looking for plants of exceptional quality. **Round 3:** The judges select a 'Best in Show' plant from all the 'Award of Merit' winners.



Premiums for Ribbons: Blue \$3 – Red \$2 – White \$1 – Award of Merit \$5 – Best of Show \$10



4-H Members: Receive an extra \$1 premium from Ms. Shaina



Baker County Extension Service

1025 West Macclenny Avenue
Macclenny, FL 32063



Phone: (904) 259-3520

Email: alamborn@ufl.edu

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).