

Highlights in

Horticulture

Baker County

September 2016

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Dear Extension Friends,

I hope you will consider displaying a few of your potted plants during the Horticulture Showcase at this year's Baker County Fair. Whether you have something unusual or just a favorite houseplant, the exhibit is always popular, providing educational opportunities for other plant enthusiasts and inspiring children to become gardeners. Check out page 4 for more information.

Best Regards,

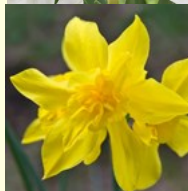
Alicia

Alicia R. Lamborn
Horticulture Extension Agent
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County



Cragford

Short plant with 2-4 white ruffled petals and a small orange cup. Fragrant. 14" February



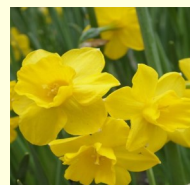
Double Campernelli

Bright petite flower with rose shaped center. Needs full sun. Very fragrant. Pre 1900. 10-12" Early February



Gigantic Star

Large yellow flowers. Likes full sun and well-drained soil. 18-24" Late February



Quail

2-3 small bright golden yellow flowers. Excellent fragrance. Wister award winner. 12-14" February



Silver Chimes

All white with 8-12 large fragrant florets to a stem. Multiplies well. 16" Mid-March



Waterperry

2 flowers per stem, apricot colored cups. Needs partial shade and moderate water. 12" Early March

Each variety is 5 bulbs for \$3.00

Estimated delivery is mid-October.

Pre-order today by calling (904) 259-3520.

WHAT TO PLANT IN NORTH FLORIDA



SEPTEMBER



FLOWERS

Angelonia Begonia, wax
 Celosia Coleus
 Crossandra
 Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost'
 Foxglove
 Impatiens Kalanchoe
 Marigold Moss Rose
 New Guinea Impatiens
 Pentas Torenia
 Tropical Sage
 Vinca Zinnia



VEGETABLES

Arugula Beans (bush/pole)
 Beets Broccoli
 Brussels Sprouts Cabbage
 Carrots Cauliflower
 Celery Chinese Cabbage
 Collards Endive/Escarole
 Kale Kohlrabi
 Lettuce Mustard
 Onions, bunching & bulbing)
 Radish Spinach
 Squash (summer/winter)
 Swiss Chard Turnips

PLANTING TIPS

With the exception of Foxglove, annual flowers listed can only be expected to grow until first frost. Consider planting cool season annuals starting in October.

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>

Remember to rotate your veggies! Members of the same vegetable family planted in the same areas each year are more susceptible pest damage.

Plant flowers in the vegetable garden. They provide nectar and pollen that attract beneficial insects.

Enjoy a fall harvest of beans and squash by planting early this month. All other vegetable crops listed can take the cold of winter.

Species Spotlight: River Birch

River birch can grow 50 to 90 feet tall but is often seen 40 to 50 feet. It lacks the white trunk bark associated with other birches but is distinguished by reddish, brown bark peeling off in film-like papery curls providing interest all year round. Yellow fall color is common but typically doesn't last long.



River birch is hardy and grows rapidly in full or partial sun, but requires an acid soil (otherwise it becomes chlorotic). It is very well-suited for planting along stream banks where it is native and in other wet areas since it tolerates low soil oxygen, flooding, and clay soil. However, this tree also does well in well-drained landscapes especially if planted in low areas.

River Birches are not particularly adapted to heat but make a nice tree if provided with irrigation and plenty of soil space. The River Birch trees planted in the Baker County Arboretum are cultivars called 'Dura Heat' which tolerate the heat better and retain their leaves longer into fall. Although growing in sandy soil and receiving little supplemental irrigation after establishment, our trees have quadrupled in size over the past five and a half years.



How To Grow a Staghorn Fern

Varieties

Most species of staghorn ferns grow readily in Florida although beginners are advised to start with the “easy-to-grow” species that are readily available at local nurseries, which include *Platycerium bifurcatum*, *P. veitchii*, *P. alcicorne* and *P. hillii*.

Mounting

Because of their relatively large size (shown right), staghorn ferns are rarely grown in pots except when produced as small specimens for sale at nurseries. Their natural, epiphytic growth habit makes them well suited for mounting on slabs of wood, tree fern fiber or wire baskets. To mount a fern on a piece of wood or tree fern fiber, place a few handfuls of organic growing medium such as peat, compost or rich potting soil on the wood slightly below center. Shape it in a circular mound and place the fern on it so that the basal fronds are in contact with the mounting material. Use wire (not copper), plastic strips or nylon hose to secure the fern tightly to its mount. When a wire basket is used, pack it with an organic medium (such as sphagnum moss) and mount and secure the fern “face-up” on the medium. Hang the basket sideways. Small plants called “pups” will eventually emerge from the back and sides of the basket and completely cover it.



Watering

In general, allow the medium to dry completely between watering. This may be difficult to judge since the outer medium may appear dry, but the inner layers and the basal fronds will be saturated. It may be best to wait until the fern slightly wilts before watering. Once watered, it will quickly recover, whereas an over-watered fern will rot and die. Generally, water once a week during dry, hot times of the year, and less during winter and rainy seasons. Older plants, those with spongy layers of old shield fronds, tolerate drought better than less mature plants.

Fertilization

A water-soluble 10-10-10 or 20-20-20 fertilizer is recommended. Staghorn ferns can be fertilized monthly during the warm, growing months of the year and every other month when growth slows down. Frequent fertilization is only necessary when you want vigorous growth. Mature staghorns will thrive with one or two applications a year.

Light

Partially shaded conditions are best for staghorns. The dappled light of a shade tree or indirect light on an outdoor porch is ideal. Very low light conditions may result in slow growing ferns and/or pest problems.

Temperature

Most staghorn ferns are considered tender or semi-tender to cold and will not tolerate cold temperatures. There are exceptions, such as *P. bifurcatum* and *P. veitchii*, which can withstand temperatures as low as 25°F. However, north Florida growers should be prepared to bring ferns into a heated garage, greenhouse or home when extremely cold temperatures are predicted.

Propagation

Propagating staghorn ferns from spores (shown right) is slow and difficult and is not practical for most gardeners. Pups (with their root systems) can be carefully removed from large ferns and re-established. Wrap the roots in damp sphagnum and then tie the root ball to a mount. Eventually the sterile frond will expand and grip the mount.



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, mounted plants meant to hang), and Patio Plants.

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.

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 2pm—5pm

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

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

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

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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).