

**Baker County Extension Service**  
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 Macclenny, FL 32063

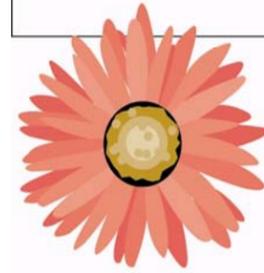
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**IFAS EXTENSION**



Highlights in

*Horticulture*

Baker County

Dear Extension Friends,

We are currently looking for Master Gardener volunteers to join our family. Being a Master Gardener is both fun and rewarding, and there are many “jobs” to choose from that help to educate and improve the lives of people in our county. Don’t know much about gardening? The training we provide will turn your brown thumb to green! Live too far from our office? You can choose to work on projects and educate those in your own community! If you are considering the Master Gardener Program, please visit our website for more information, or call our office with questions.

Best Regards,

*Alicia*

Alicia R. Lamborn  
 Horticulture Extension Agent

June 2010

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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 five (5) 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).

**Master Gardener Training Starts Soon!**

**We are now accepting applications for Master Gardener volunteers.**

The Master Gardener program is a national program of volunteers who are associated with the Extension Service. Trained Baker County Master Gardener volunteers help extend unbiased, research-based horticultural information to people in our community who need that information.

In Baker County, a Master Gardener might serve in one of the following roles:

- ◆ Work with horticulture extension staff at the office
- ◆ Assist horticulture agent with extension programs
- ◆ Assist horticulture agent with yard visits to homeowners
- ◆ Answer homeowner questions at plant clinics
- ◆ Work with youth to plant and maintain school gardens
- ◆ Plant and maintain demonstration gardens
- ◆ Grow a flower crop in the extension greenhouse
- ◆ Work with youth in the Jr. Master Gardener Program

This is a great opportunity for anyone who enjoys gardening and wants to volunteer for our community. We will teach you everything you ever wanted to know about gardening and you will pay us back by volunteering in 2011!

**Applications accepted until July 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.**

**Classes are held from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm each Wednesday starting August 4<sup>th</sup> until mid October. Just pay \$55 for materials and the training itself is free!**

The materials you will receive include a CD full of reference materials, The Florida Lawn Handbook (book), Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses (book), a hand lens (for identifying insects/diseases), and your Master Gardener name tag.

Visit our website or stop by the extension office for an application packet.

For Extension Programs offered around the state, see the IFAS Extension Web Calendar at <http://calendar.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar/index.htm>.



**Upcoming Programs & Events: July & August**

*All programs will be held at the Baker County Extension Office (Agricultural Center).*

July 2nd — **Rain Barrel Workshop** 10:00am to 11:00am. Install a rain barrel that will save the rain for your plants and save you money! Learn how to build, install, and maintain a functional rain barrel for immediate use. All materials are provided for this “make and take” rain barrel workshop and we help you build. \$35 fee for materials (per barrel) is due by Friday, May 21st at 5:00 pm. Already have your own barrel? Just call 259-3520 to register and join the class for free!



July 9th — **Indoor Composting (with Worms)** 10:00 am to 11:00 am. A worm bin can be used inside the home to reduce food waste while creating worm castings (worm manure), which can then be used as an excellent, nutrient-rich organic fertilizer and soil conditioner for your house or landscape plants. Worms can also be used as fish bait. The class is free; bring your own container & receive free worms to get started. Please call 259-3520 to save your seat!



July 26th — **Identifying Nutrient Deficiencies in Plants** 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Have you ever had a yellowing plant that your fertilizer couldn’t fix? Knowing exactly what nutrient the plant needs is the first step to correcting the problem. Come learn how to diagnose a nutrient deficiency and fertilize appropriately to correct the problem. This class is free, just call 259-3520 to register by Thursday, July 22nd.



August 9th-13th — **Jr. Master Gardener Summer Camp** Youth are invited to join us for a week long gardening day camp. Each day has a different gardening theme with various hands-on activities. The cost of the camp is \$50 per child and will run from 9 am to 3 pm each day. Call 259-3520 for more information.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information, and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions, or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.

# Crazy for Cannas

*Cannas can steal the show in any landscape with their bright flowers, colorful foliage and tropical appeal.*

Cannas are tropical and sub-tropical perennials, valued mostly for their large tropical foliage and showy, brilliantly colored flowers. The foliage can be as ornamental as the flowers, having pure green, greenish blue, coppery to purplish, ruby, or green with white stripes.

Cannas thrive best in well-drained, organic soils with an abundant supply of nutrients. They also prefer to grow in full sun or semi-shaded areas and require regular watering during dry spells. To encourage continuous blooming throughout the summer, begin fertilizing in spring, continuing monthly, and deadhead old flowers, removing that part of the stem. Cannas can also be grown in containers, requiring less fertilizer and water (if a good organic soil medium is used) and preventing them from creeping into other landscaped areas.



Planting a mix of flower and foliage colors will make your cannas pop, creating a focal point in the garden.

Cannas are classified into three groups: tall-growing, low-growing, and dwarf.

Tall cannas (also known as giant cannas) can reach 6 feet tall and should be spaced 2 feet apart. Low cannas grow 24 to 36 inches tall and are perfect for anywhere space is limited. Dwarf cannas grow 16 to 18 inches tall and are usually restricted to borders, accents, or in beds with mixed annuals & perennials.

These plants generally do not have many problems. Removing spent flowers will remove any fungal infections associated with rotting flowers. Canna leaf-roller caterpillars will infest the young uncurling growing points and chew through them. Cutting dead Canna plants to the ground in the late winter and disposing of the cut material is a good way to reduce populations of this pest.



Canna Leaf-roller Damage

## A Few Varieties Grown in Florida Include:

- Wyoming (orange-bronze flowers, bronze foliage, tall)
- The Ambassador (salmon pink flowers, ruby red foliage, tall)
- City of Portland (deep pink flowers, green foliage, tall)
- The Presidents (scarlet flowers, green foliage, tall)
- Red King Hubert (scarlet flowers, copper bronze, tall)
- Rosen Kavalier (coral rose flowers, low)
- Tiger Lily (yellow flowers splotched with red, low)
- Seven Dwarfs: Happy, Grumpy, Doc, etc.  
(mixed flower colors include rose, red, orange, yellow, salmon)

# Oh, Deer

*If you've had enough of the deer dining in your garden, consider changing the menu.*

Deer can be a real challenge, and while a fence may be the best solution, it can be rather costly. Instead, gardeners should consider incorporating plants into the landscape that are less appetizing for deer. The following list includes a variety of plants that are rarely damaged by deer, however, no plant is entirely deer resistant.



## Trees:

- River Birch (*Betula nigra*)
- Roundleaf Holly (*Ilex rotunda*)

## Shrubs:

- Boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*)
- Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia lindleyana*)
- 'Firepower' Nandina (*a sterile cultivar of Heavenly Bamboo*)
- 'Color Guard' Yucca (*variegated cultivar of Yucca filamentosa*)
- Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum sp.*)
- Oregon Hollygrape (*Mahonia bealei*)

## Groundcovers:

- Bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans*)
- Holly Fern (*Cyrtomium falcatum*)
- Lovegrass (*Eragrostus sp.*)
- Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)
- Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*)

## Annuals/Perennials/Bulbs:

- Spider Flower (*Cleome*)
- Daffodils (*Narcissus*)
- Iris (*Iris sp.*)
- False Indigo (*Baptisia sp.*)
- Pot Marigold (*Calendula sp.*)
- Garden Sage (*Salvia sp.*)
- Snapdragons

## Deer Repellent:

The University of Georgia conducted a study and found that Milorganite® has potential as a deer repellent when it is applied to established ornamental plants during the summer. Though the repellent did not eliminate deer damage, it reduced the overall impact.

Milorganite® is slow-release, organic fertilizer used on all types of plants.

\* The use of trade names is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. It is not a guarantee of warranty of the products names and does not signify they are approved to the exclusion of others of suitable comparison.

