



Highlights in

Horticulture

Baker County

November 2011

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Dear Extension Friends,

We would like to thank everyone who purchased strawberry plants and visited us during the Open House & Strawberry Festival! We quickly sold out of plants, but we still have plenty of free information on growing strawberries, including recipes for once the fruit is ready! The strawberries were such a success that we hope to offer them again next year...so everyone has an opportunity to grow lots of fresh, nutritious fruit without spending much money.

Best Regards,

Alicia

Alicia R. Lamborn
Horticulture Extension Agent
Baker County Extension Service



It's Not Too Late To Join...

Jr. Master Gardener 4-H Club



Do you know a child that...



Enjoys Gardening



Likes To Learn New Things



Wants to Make New Friends

If so, tell them about the new Jr. Master Gardener 4-H Club.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 15th @ 6 pm

We will be having fun in the greenhouse, transplanting the seeds we planted in October and learning about hydroponic growing systems. Be sure to dress warm!

Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6pm—7pm. We begin each meeting in the 4-H classroom before heading out to the greenhouse for some hands-on fun! Members learn about fruit & vegetable gardening, plant science and more! New this year, members may choose to grow vegetable and flower crops to sell during our Spring Garden Festival to raise money for 4-H camp!

Enrollment forms are available at the Baker County Extension Office or in the 4-H Youth Development section of our webpage located at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu> Questions? Call 259-3520 Hope to see you there!

November Gardening Tips

- The time changes early this month and that means our watering schedule changes also! See below for details.
- Recycle those falling leaves and pine needles in the garden by using them as mulch. Leaves and pine needles work great as mulch, helping to hold moisture and prevent weeds, plus they break down quickly, adding organic matter to the soil. Mulch should be maintained at 2-3 inches around all landscape plants and recycling these materials will allow you to top off any existing mulch that may have gotten depleted over the year.
- As the leaves begin to drop this time of year, many of us start to notice what may appear to be problems on our trees. Spanish moss, ball moss, and lichen are all commonly mistaken to be harmful in some way, although these organisms seldom need any attention at all. They do not kill or rob the trees of nutrients; they only need a place to live. For more information on lichen, visit http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/Controlling_Lichens.html
- Keep an eye out for tree wraps this month, which are usually available during fall at gardening supply stores. Begin wrapping tree trunks at the first threat of cold weather to protect young trees and graft unions of young fruit trees and guard against winter cracking and damage. Foam pipe insulation can also be used as a substitute. Just remember to remove wraps in early spring before the buds begin to swell so that growth is not inhibited.
- Pomegranates are the only fruit trees that require fertilization this month. Fertilize using an 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.*



New Watering Restriction Schedule Starts November 6th!

(Regulated by the St. Johns River Water Management District)

- ▶ **Odd** numbered addresses may water only on **Saturdays**.
 - ▶ **Even** numbered addresses may water only on **Sundays**.
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- ▶ **Water only when needed and not between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.** (Early morning is best.)
 - ▶ **Water for no more than one hour per zone.** (Lawns and landscape plants only need about 1/2" to 3/4" per application. Use a rain gauge or tuna can to determine the time it takes to apply that amount of water and adjust the run time as needed.)
 - ▶ Restrictions apply to private wells & pumps, ground or surface water, and water from public/private utilities.
 - ▶ Note: One thing to consider is that just because our watering restrictions say we can water once per week, doesn't necessarily mean we need to water once per week. It's best to keep an eye on your plants and let them tell you when it's time to water. For landscape plants, wait until they show the first signs of wilting, and for lawns, a blue-gray color, leaf blades folded in half (lengthwise), and footprints that remain in the grass are all signs of water stress. Of course, once your lawn goes dormant, it won't need much, if any, supplemental irrigation. Just let mother nature do the work.

Building A Cold Frame

Most gardeners have potted plants that do not tolerate cold temperatures in winter. But instead of breaking your back this winter by hauling plants inside every time a hard freeze comes, build yourself a cold frame structure to house those precious plants until spring.

Basic Structure: Quonset Design, 3' high x 6' wide x 20' long

Materials Needed:

4	3/4"	schedule 40 PVC pipe, 20' lengths
1	12'	x 30' white copolymer film, 6 mil
32	3/4"	electrical conduit hangers
1	2"	x 8" x 12' treated lumber
4	2"	x 8" x 10' treated lumber
4		Metal mending plates
1		200 ft. roll gauge steel wire (or heavy cord)
80		Wood screws

Tools Required:

Carpenter saw	Electric drill	Tape measure
Builder's square	Pencil	Garden rake
Side cutting pliers	A friend	



Site Selection:

Choose a site for your structure that is fairly level with a water source nearby. The structure should also be oriented North-South (east-west orientation supplies more overall light, but north-south orientation supplies more uniform light).

Construction:

- 1 - Cut the 2" x 8" x 12' lumber in half, making two pieces 2" x 8" x 6' that will be used for the ends of the bed.
- 2 - Butt the ends of two of the 2" x 8" x 10's together and nail/screw securely using mending plates on each side, so that you have a 2" x 8" x 20' side board (kickboard). Repeat with the remaining two pieces of 2" x 8" x 10's.
- 3 - Lay kickboard sides on edge 6' apart on the leveled area and place a 2" x 8" x 6' section outside each end. Square the corners, then nail/screw together securely. (Screws will allow for easier breakdown, if required.)
- 4 - At each of the four corners (on the inside edges), attach a conduit hanger using screws so that the top of the hanger is flush with the top edge of the boards. Any nails/screws that come through should be bent over so that they will not tear the copolymer cover. Note: the photo demonstrates this step, only the conduit hangers are placed on the outside of the kickboards.
- 5 - Repeat step 4, attaching conduit hangers flush with the bottom of the boards in each of the four corners.
- 6 - Starting from the center of the top conduit hangers, mark off the kickboards along the length of the structure at 33 13/16 inch intervals.
- 7 - At each of the marked intervals, center and screw in two conduit hangers (at top and bottom) as in steps 4 & 5.
- 8 - Cut the four 20' lengths of PVC pipe in half so that you have eight 10' pieces.
- 9 - For each section of PVC pipe, slip one end down through a set of conduit hangers, bend the pipe in a bow across the width of the structure, and slip the other end of the pipe down through the opposite set of conduit hangers.
- 10 - Place containerized plants inside the structure and water thoroughly. Note: Plants that are more cold tolerant should be placed around the perimeter with the least cold tolerant plants placed in the middle.
- 11 - Using flexible wire or heavy cord, tie the bows of PVC pipe together so that they cannot flex to either side. An alternative is to use a single PVC 20' length centered at the top and attached to each bow to add greater rigidity to the frame.
- 12 - Center the 12' x 30' sheet of white copolymer film over the hoop frame.
- 13 - The cover can be secured by covering the 1' of surplus film along one of the long sides with soil. To allow easy access to the plants, the other three sides of the film can be held down with boards, rocks, or pieces of wood.

***This structure will require venting. This can be done by opening the ends (or rolling up one side, as shown in the above photo) and then closing them down again later in the day. Depending on the plant material, closing the structure may only be necessary when temperatures fall below 32 degrees.

Large Patch Disease in Lawns

This fungal pathogen (formerly known as brown patch) is especially problematic in St. Augustinegrass and appears from fall to spring when temperatures are below 80°F. It is triggered by excessive moisture and is especially bad during extended periods of overcast skies and rainfall or excessive irrigation (another good reason to adjust your irrigation schedule).

Watch for small patches (1 ft in diameter) that turn yellow, then brown or straw colored as leaves die. Patches can eventually expand to several feet (shown below) and it is not uncommon to see healthy grass within the dead patches.

If you suspect that you have brown patch, check the outer edge of the patch for a soft, dark rot at the base of the leaf (shown above right). If you can easily pull a leaf off the stem and it smells rotten, then your lawn is infected.



Fortunately, the roots of the lawn are not affected and the application of fungicides can help. However, fungicides do not help the lawn recover, but instead are used as a preventative measure to help keep the disease from spreading. Recovery occurs only when the lawn is growing and therefore may take time before noticeable results are seen since often this disease shows up in fall when the lawn is getting ready to go dormant for winter.



If this disease becomes a routine problem, treating the lawn with fungicides prior to disease development can be beneficial. However, spraying preventatively is unnecessary if the disease is not already present in your lawn.

In addition to chemicals, cultural controls should be used to manage this disease. These include mowing the diseased areas last and washing the clippings off the mower to prevent spread to other areas of the lawn. You can also help manage (or prevent) this disease by fertilizing with slow-release nitrogen (at the correct time of year) and watering only as needed.

If you suspect the presence of this disease in your lawn, you may contact our office for assistance, or visit <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh044> for a list of chemical controls.



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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 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).