



The Baker Bulletin

The UF/IFAS Extension Office is available to help you with your farming, gardening, landscaping, and 4-H youth development needs by providing educational programming, free consultations and information. Contact us at:

UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

1025 W. Macclenny Ave. Macclenny, FL 32063

Phone: (904) 259-3520

Email: baker@ifas.ufl.edu

Hours: M—F 8:30 am to 5:00 pm (Closed Noon to 1:00 pm for Lunch)

County Agents

Alicia Lamborn Horticulture Agent

Shaina Spann 4-H Youth Development Agent

Alicia Halbritter Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent



sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker



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[Agriculture in North Florida](#)

[Baker County Garden Spot](#)

[Baker County 4-H](#)

MARCH 2024

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Programs & Events

- April 6 Master Gardener Plant Sale - A fundraiser for the Baker County Arboretum and Extension Horticulture Program. Free event, 8:00 am to Noon @ Baker County Extension Office. For more information, see page 2 and follow the event on Facebook for more details and plant lists!
- April 13 Building a Better Baker: Community Resource Fair - Free Event, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm @ Baker County Fairgrounds. Featuring a variety of programs, services, and resources for local families and county residents. Includes free health screenings, upcoming events, and door prizes!
- April 20 Community Day at the Farm - Free Event, 8:30 am to Noon @ UF/IFAS NFREC-Suwannee Valley Farm. Includes trolley field tours, orchard tours, greenhouse tours, equipment tours, and educational booths for kids and adults! And appearances by the Paw Patrol! [Register here.](#)
- April - May 15 Gardening for Pollinators - This online course focuses on native bees and butterflies in Florida and then how to support them using Florida-Friendly Landscape principles. Registration ends May 15. Once registered students have 45 days to complete the class; \$20 per person. [Register here.](#)



2024
Master Gardener
PLANT SALE



- FEATURING**
-  Trees & Shrubs
 -  Flowering Perennials
 -  Fruits, Vegetables, Herbs
 -  Houseplants & Foliage
 -  Grasses & Groundcovers
 -  Vines, Succulents, & More!

A fundraiser for the Baker County Arboretum & Horticulture Program

- Free entry!
- Shop for a cause!
- Stroll through the gardens!
- Enjoy free activities for the kids!
- Don't forget your wagon!

APRIL 6
8AM - NOON

Agricultural Center
1025 W. Macclenny Ave.
Macclenny, FL 32063

UF/IFAS Extension Baker County
 ☎ **904-259-3520**



HIGHLIGHTS IN HORTICULTURE

By Alicia Lamborn, Environmental Horticulture Agent

Tomatillos



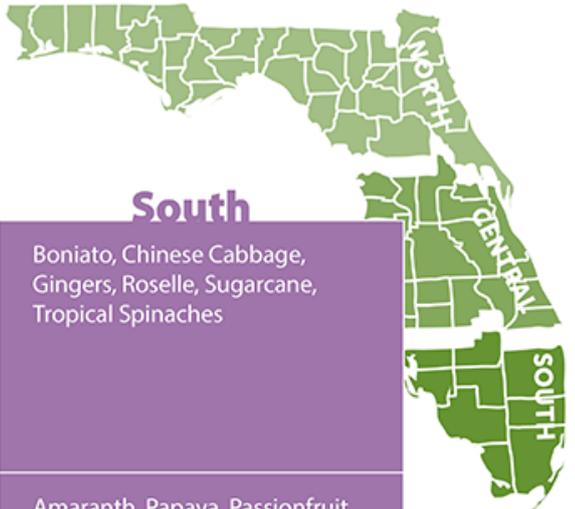
Interested in adding something new to your garden?
If you can grow a tomato, you can grow a tomatillo!



Tomatillos (*Physalis ixocarpa*) belong to the same family as tomatoes, Solanaceae. Though the fruits are smaller than most tomatoes, the plants are not petite. Care for the plants as you would tomatoes, but add multiple plants to your garden for a reliable harvest because they do prefer to cross pollinate. Tomatillo fruits are about three inches wide and green or purplish at harvest. They can mature to yellow when fully ripe; they are usually picked green. Having an acidic, yet sweet, flavor, they are often used in stews, molés, and salsas. Start cooking with this [salsa verde recipe from UF/IFAS Extension in Broward County](#).

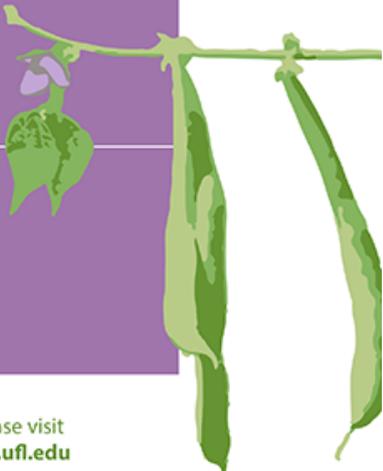
Article excerpted from: Tomatillos and Husk Tomatoes, UF/IFAS Gardening Solutions, <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/edibles/vegetables/tomatillos.html>

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN *April*



North Central South

 Easily Survives Transplanting Boniato, Gingers, Roselle, Tomatillo, Tomatoes	Boniato, Chinese Cabbage, Gingers, Roselle, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tropical Spinaches	Boniato, Chinese Cabbage, Gingers, Roselle, Sugarcane, Tropical Spinaches
 Transplant Carefully Amaranth, Calabaza, Long Squash, Luffa, Papaya, Passionfruit, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes	Amaranth, Calabaza, Long Squash, Luffa, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pigeon Pea, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes, Yucca	Amaranth, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pineapple, Sweet Potatoes, Yucca
 Use Seeds Beans (bush, lima, pole), Cantaloupes, Chayote, Corn, Cucumbers, Okra, Peanuts, Peas (southern), Squashes, Watermelon	Beans (bush, pole), Chayote, Corn, Okra, Peanuts, Peas (southern), Squash	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Chayote, Peas (southern)





BARNYARD BULLETIN

By Alicia Halbritter, Agriculture Agent

Timed Livestock Breeding



One management task that livestock owners on small operations often have difficulties with is a managed breeding season. I find that many small operations typically have their male livestock intermixed with breeding females, leaving an opportunity for them to breed, and therefore birth, year-round. This can be a management decision on the basis that it's just easier to not have to keep males separated, but if you're looking to take your operation to the next level, a specific breeding season is one way to start.

I do believe that a managed time frame for breeding helps relieve future stress as you will know exactly what nutrition your animals will require based on what stage of pregnancy or post-partum they are in, what vaccines they may need at what time, and when to start watching for babies on the ground and starting the related management tasks associated with newborns. Additionally, it can be easier to sell livestock all at one time rather than having to find buyers or make trips to the market year-round.

Timed breeding starts with heat synchronization. Read on to find heat synchronization protocols for cattle. If you are interested in timed breeding for other livestock species, get with me to discuss what may work for your operation! Heat Synching can be done with bulls/live cover or artificial insemination, although these protocols will differ slightly. Additionally, protocols may differ for heifers & cows depending on how early you are attempting to breed your heifers and what their reproductive development currently is.

You will need to ensure your heifers, cows, & bulls are prepared for a more intensive breeding season before starting heat synchronization, work with your vet or extension agent to discuss what is best for you & your operation.



- **PGF2 Alpha Protocol | \$1-\$2 per female**

This option is cheaper and less labor intensive as it only requires one trip through the chute. However, cows already need to be cycling so this process does not work well for heifers who may not have had an estrus cycle yet. Additionally, this method has not performed well for brahman influenced cows or those with poor nutrition. This drug (prostaglandin) will cause abortion and should not be administered to cows who could be pregnant.

- **MGA Based Protocol | \$8-\$13 per female**

This option is a feed based program, synthetic progesterone is added to the feed for 7-14 days. This protocol can be enhanced by giving a shot of GnRH on day 0, followed by a PG shot on day 14. Although more expensive than a single PG shot, this method is more effective. MGA is not an ideal way of administering progesterone, but helps producers who do not have working facilities still be able to heat synch their herd.

- **CIDR Based | \$15-\$30 per female**

This option is the most expensive way to synchronize heat cycles in your herd, but always the most effective. A CIDR is an intravaginal device that delivers progesterone directly to the reproductive system, driving the cow into heat. The most popular protocol with this method is the 7 day co-synch + CIDR which includes a shot of GNRH on day 0 and insertion of the CIDR, waiting 7 days and removing the CIDR while giving a shot of PG. At this point the bulls are introduced to the herd and your breeding season begins.

LUCKY CLOVER CHRONICLE

By Shaina Spann, 4-H Youth Development Agent

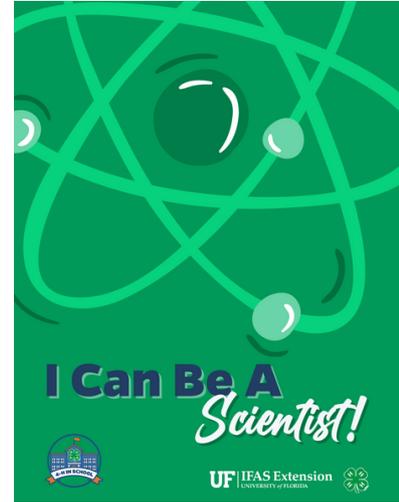


How can we empower youth to believe that they can be a scientist?

Empowering youth to be the scientists of tomorrow begins with the development of their Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics or STEM identity. This comes from how youth see themselves. Many children pretend to be astronauts or doctors when very young, but as they age the

perceptions of themselves change. If youth are exposed to STEM as young as kindergarten on a regular basis, they can learn that STEM doesn't come with stereotypes, gender, race, ethnicity, disability, socioeconomic status, or culture. They won't have to fight against media representations of STEM professionals (like the stereotypical mad scientist or Albert Einstein). We want youth to see that people from all backgrounds can be successful in STEM. Over one third of African American, Latino, and Native American students enter college with an interest in STEM, of those, 17% do not earn a bachelor's degree in STEM majors. 4-H is here to encourage the development of youth through hands-on learning, especially with STEM. Creating a positive STEM identity is where students see themselves as capable, connected, and competent in the world of STEM. If this should be done when students are young, how do we create a positive STEM identity? With curriculum that starts the conversation.

A new 4-H In School curriculum, I Can Be A Scientist, is available to all youth in grades Kindergarten through 2nd grade. Featuring 10 lessons, students learn what scientists do, dive into eight fields of STEM, conduct experiments, read STEM books, and learn about STEM careers. If we can foster a strong STEM identity in elementary students, we can enable a passion to become future innovators, and problem solvers.



sources: <https://blog.kidsparkeducation.org/blog/cultivating-stem-identity-in-elementary-school-students> and <https://blog.kidsparkeducation.org/blog/stem-identity-everything-you-need-to-know>

Baker County Livestock Expo

April 23, 2024

6:00-7:30pm

Ag Center Auditorium

We are hosting the inaugural Livestock Expo! This event seeks to connect youth with resources that pertain to their 4-H livestock project. This event is open to all 4-H & FFA members who are anticipating showing an animal at the fair this year. If you would like to help or set up an information booth with your organization please email slbennett@ufl.edu for more information.

4-H Club Meetings & Events

- April 1- Cloverbuddies, 4pm, Classroom
 - [State Awards Scholarships Open](#)
 - [Registration](#) for iLEAD (ages 10-13) open in 4-H Online
- April 11- Mandatory New Family Livestock Orientation, 6pm, Ag Center Auditorium
- April 15- [Ask 4-H about iLEAD](#), ages 10-13, 7pm, Zoom
- April 16- Fairy & Gnome Garden with the Emily Taber Public Library, 3:30-6:00pm, 4-H Pavilion
- April 23- Livestock Expo & Makeup Livestock Orientation, 6:00-7:30pm, Ag Center Auditorium

We need volunteers! Please reach out if you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering. The following areas currently have a need for volunteers:

- Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics (STEAM)
- Healthy Living
- Sports
- Livestock Animals
- Horses



Did you know that 4-H has an online course platform? It's called [CLOVER](#). There are activities and courses 4-Hers can take! When signing up, enter the code 831101 to join Baker County!

REMIND APP

text @bakerco4h to 81010 to be added to the 4-H Remind text group.



Check out our Livestock [Google Site!](#)



Plant Sale Preview

Don't forget your wagon!

native plants

- Autumn Sage - red/pink
- Azaleas: Pinxter, FL Flame
- Beautyberry
- Black-eyed Susan Rudbeckia
- Blue Beech
- Buttonbush
- Catalpa/Bean Tree
- Coreopsis
- Corky Stem Passionflower
- Crossvine 'Tangerine Beauty'
- Cutleaf Coneflower
- Dahoon Holly
- Dotted Horsemint
- False Indigo (Amorpha)
- Firebush
- Flatwoods Plum
- Florida Pennyroyal
- Florida Maple
- Florida Red Anise
- Fringetree
- Giant Ironweed
- Green Eyes
- Marsh Mallow
- Oakleaf Hydrangea
- Pink Muhly Grass
- Pop Ash
- Purpletop Tridens
- Rain Lily
- Red Maple
- Rosinweed, Starry
- Rosinweed, Kidneyleaf
- Rough Skullcap (Scutellaria)
- Stokes Aster
- Summerset (Clethra)
- Sunshine Mimosa
- Swamp Rosemallow
- Swamp Sunflower
- Texas Blue Star
- Weeping Viburnum/
Southern Arrowwood
- White Swamp Milkweed
- Wild Indigo (Baptisia)
- Woodland Phlox
- Yellow Canna

veggies, herbs & fruits

- **Heirloom Tomatoes:** Cherry, Ace 55, Pink Brandywine, Golden Jubilee, San Marzano, Marglobe, Yellow Pear, Plum Roma, Cherry, Tomatillo, Rainbow Beefsteak, and Cherokee Purple
- **Peppers:** Bell, Sweet Banana, Jalapeno, Serrano, Anaheim
- **Cucumbers**
- **Squash & Zucchini**
- **Eggplant**
- **Okinawa Spinach**
- **Seminole Pumpkin**
- **Herbs:** Basil, Chives, Mint, Dill, Parsley, Thyme, Cilantro, Lemon Balm, Roselle (Florida Cranberry), Sage, Chervil, Rosemary
- **Blueberries** (assorted rabbiteyes)
- **Citrus:** Sugar Belle (Mandarin hybrid), Meyer Lemon, Satsuma Mandarin (Owari), Kumquat (Nagami)
- **Flatwoods Plums**
- **Dragon Fruit**
- **Strawberry** (hanging baskets)



flowers & foliage

- Agapanthus
- Angel-wing Begonia
- Autumn Sage
- Azaleas (assorted)
- Bee Balm
- Blackberry Lily
- Black-eyed Susan
- Blue Hibiscus
- Bromeliads (assorted)
- Brunfelsia 'Lady of the Night'
- Canna Lily
- Chicken Gizzard
- Coleus 'Fish Net Stockings'
- Coreopsis
- Crinum Lily
- Crocosmia
- Crossvine
- Daylilies
- Firebush
- Gaillardia
- Green Eyes
- Hibiscus
- Hurricane Lily
- Mexican Bush Sage
- Milkweed
- Rain Lily (assorted)
- Rudbeckia
- **Salvia:** Black and Blue, Hot Lips, Indigo Spires, Red, Scarlet Pineapple
- **Scutellaria 'Purple Fountain'**
- **Sweet Almond Bush**
- **Yarrow**
- **Yellow Cestrum**
- **Succulents:** Jade, Sedum, Huernia, Euphorbia, Donkey's Tail, and more
- **Houseplants:** Pothos, Philodendron, Sansevieria (Snake Plant, Birds Nest, and Whale Fin), Ficus, and more



See you April 6th !!!