



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



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[Agriculture in North Florida](#)

[Baker County Garden Spot](#)

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August 2024



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Programs & Events

New! Online City of Macclenny Sustainable Tree Planting Initiative & Florida-Friendly Landscaping Class - Check out this website for information on this important tree planting project, plus access a free online Florida-Friendly Landscaping class! <https://sites.google.com/ufl.edu/city-of-macclenny-tree-project/home>

Aug 2 Master Gardener Pop-Up Plant Sale, 9am - 1pm at the Baker County Extension Office. Shrubs, perennials, foliage, and more.

Announcements



Renovations began July 15, 2024. Please be patient with us during this time. The auditorium is not available for rentals while construction is underway.



We are aware that our phones have been working intermittently. If you need to reach us, please email us or stop by the office.



Florida's Native Flora & Fauna

By Alicia Lamborn, Environmental Horticulture Agent



Coontie

Coontie (*Zamia floridana*) is an evergreen, palm-like plant known as a cycad. Cycads are a general group of plants that produce cones instead of flowers, and the Coontie happens to be Florida's only native cycad. Unlike Sago cycads, Coontie may resemble a fern having both a soft appearance and a soft touch. Over time, the plant produces suckers to form a mounding shrub. Perfect for woodland and shade gardens, tropical gardens, or use as a low maintenance groundcover.

The rusty brown cones provide winter interest, while the bright red-orange seeds produced on female cones further add to this plant's attractiveness.

Coonties tolerate full sun to deep shade, although partial sun is best. Plant in well-drained soil enriched with a small amount of organic material, such as compost.

This plant can be propagated from seed, although seeds are slow and sometimes difficult to germinate. Removing the fleshy seed coating, either mechanically or by soaking, will hasten germination.



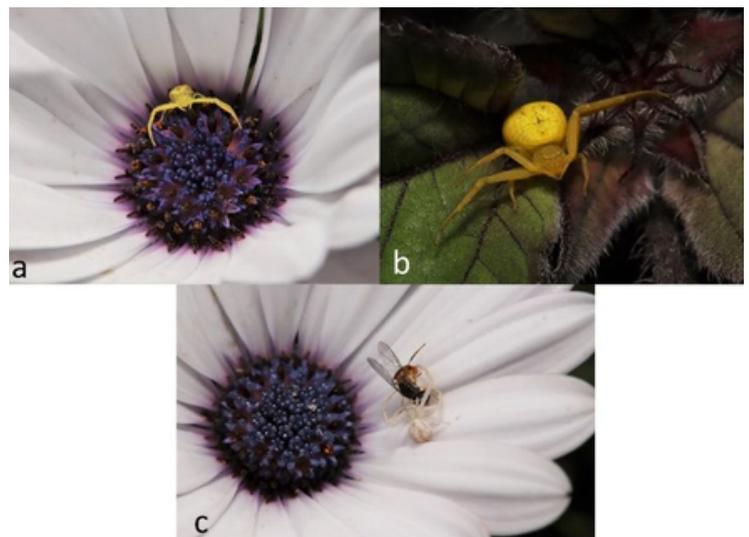
A. Lamborn, UF/IFAS

Flower Crab Spider

Flower crab spiders are color-changing ambush predators.

These spiders come in a brilliant array of colors including white, orange, pink, and yellow. They rest on flowers that match their color, and some can even change their own color to match their background.

Using this camouflage to their advantage, they sit and wait as they hunt for incoming pollinators such as bees, flies, and wasps. While small, they can catch insects many times their size, including bumblebees.



Above: (a / b) Flower crab spiders often rest with their forelegs extended, waiting to grab unsuspecting prey. Note that the first two pairs of legs are long and crab-like. (c) A juvenile with its hoverfly prey. Photo credits: Erin C. Powell, FDACS-DPI



HIGHLIGHTS IN HORTICULTURE

By Alicia Lamborn, Environmental Horticulture Agent

SUMMER PLANT SALE *CASH ONLY*

Friday August 2, 2024 9am - 1pm

**Agricultural Center
1025 W Macclenny Ave.
Macclenny FL 320643**

FEATURING:
**TREES & SHRUBS, GRASSES, GROUNDCOVERS,
VINES, SUCCULENTS, & MORE**

A FUNDRAISER FOR THE BAKER COUNTY ARBORETUM & EXTENSION HORTICULTURE PROGRAM

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN August



	North	Central	South
<p>Easily Survives Transplanting</p>	Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Eggplant, Kale, Peppers, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches	Eggplant, Endive, Peppers, Sugarcane, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches	Eggplant, Peppers, Sugarcane, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches
<p>Transplant Carefully</p>	Celery, Mustard	Pineapple	Amaranth, Calabaza, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes
<p>Use Seeds</p>	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Cucumbers, Onions (bunching), Squashes, Turnips	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peas (southern), Squashes	Okra, Pumpkin



By Alicia Halbritter, Agriculture Agent



Cool Season Forages

It's the time of year to start thinking about planting cool season forages! These forages are a winter grazing option for livestock producers or an optional winter hay producer. Cool season forages are typically planted between October and early November with either a broadcast spreader or no-till grain drill. Planting on a clean, tilled seedbed results in earlier and higher total forage production compared to overseeding on grass sod. If overseeding on bahiagrass, the sod should be disked to 30% disturbance. Overseeding on bermudagrass pastures does not require tilling. Excess warm season forage should be removed by haying, grazing, or mowing before planting.

Winter legumes perform better on heavier clay soils as they require more moisture. Remember that legume seeds require the correct inoculant just prior to planting. Moisture is the most limiting factor for which species will perform well on your operation, if limited moisture is a factor, plant white clover or ryegrass.



There are 18 different cool-season forage species that are successful across Florida, however not all of these will perform well on your operation. It is typically best to plant a mix of forages rather than one single species, to protect yourself from complete stand failure and extend your grazing season. Some common species you may see include:

- Clover - Either red, crimson, or white. White clover generally acts as a perennial, depending on moisture conditions. Crimson clover has a relatively short grazing season but performs well in a stand mix with ryegrass or small grains. Red clover is a poor reseeder but provides long-season forage production in north Florida. Clover is a legume and will deposit nitrogen into your soils. Varieties will depend on which species you choose.
- Ryegrass - Ryegrass is different from Rye, so make sure you know what you are purchasing! This mid- to late winter and spring grazing crop can be seeded alone or with a small grain. Combining with an early producing small grain lengthens the grazing season. Common Varieties include - Big Boss, Earlyploid, TAMTBO, etc.
- Rye - Rye is the most widely used small grain for winter grazing. It is more cold-tolerant than oats and generally produces more forage than either oat or wheat. Varieties include Wrens Abruzzi, Kelly Grazer III, or FL 401 (more for cover crops than grazing).
- Oats - Oats are very palatable but are commonly injured in hard freezing conditions. Oats may be planted and grazed earlier than rye, but are susceptible to many diseases and growing strains that may impact overall forage production. Do not plant sole stands of oats or risk losing majority of winter grazing opportunity. Varieties include Horizon 720 or Legend 567.
- Wheat - Wheat is less susceptible to freeze injury than oats, but productivity is lowest of all small grains grown in Florida. If grazing is your priority, go with Rye instead.
- Triticale - is a cross between wheat and rye, it has the forage quality of wheat and the disease resistance of rye. Do not plant alone in a stand if you are grazing as it does not have good grazing tolerance. Mix this species with ryegrass for a longer grazing season. Varieties include TriCal 342, or potentially TriCal Surge or Hybrid Surge.

Learn more about cool season forages here: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AA266>.

LUCKY CLOVER CHRONICLE

By Shaina Spann, 4-H Youth Development Agent

Gearing Up for the New 4-H Year

The 4-H year begins on September 1st! Here's what to expect in the next few months.



First of all, it is very important that all youth members and volunteers are enrolled or re-enrolled for the new 4-H Year. Annually, every member is required to update any pertinent health or family information.

How old does a kid need to be to join 4-H?

Ages for membership are the age the child was on September 1st of the 4-H year. Ages 5-7 for Clover Buds, they are not charged a membership fee and are able to have small animal (chickens and rabbits) projects. 4-H Members are ages 8-18 and there is a \$20 membership fee. Members can have large animal (horse, cow, pig, goat, sheep, llama) project as well participate in ATV and shooting sport projects.

What if my kid doesn't want to show an animal?

If there is an interest, 4-H most likely has a project for it! 4-H uses youths' interest to create a spark that can help them grow in various areas. Legos- we have it, space- have that too, photography- have that too!

4-H Club Meetings & Events

- Mrs. Shaina - out of the office July 29-Aug 11
- Aug 5- NO CLOVERBUDDIES
- Aug 27- Livestock Club, 6pm Location TBA
- Sep 1- NEW 4-H YEAR
- Sep 2- Extension Office Closed
- Sep 9- Cloverbuddies, Location TBA
- Sep 24- Livestock Club, 6pm Location TBA

No Camps for 2024

Unfortunately, due to construction happening at the Extension Office, we will not be hosting any camps this summer.



What is needed to form a 4-H club?

To make your own club, you need five kids from two different families and two volunteers who have been through Florida 4-H's screening process. From there, a meeting date needs to be set and a name chosen for the club.

What types of 4-H clubs are there?

There are several types of clubs that are available. The most common is the traditional community club. They meet once a month for an hour throughout the year. Another option is a SPIN, or special interest, club. Spin clubs meet for a period of several weeks (6-12) and focus on one subject. They are more flexible and are short term. Next, schools can have two options. In school and after school clubs. In school clubs, led by a teacher, happen during the school day for a class to participate in. After school clubs are open to all youth within that school and can be led by any school related employee.

How do you register for 4-H?

Register after August 1st, by going to <https://v2.4honline.com>

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

REMIND APP

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



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

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!

EXTENSION TIDBITS

Florida Tropical Smoothie



INGREDIENTS

1 cup Florida tropical fruit (such as mango, papaya, avocado or dragon fruit)

1 teaspoon Florida Key lime juice

1/2 banana

1 cup liquid (water, juice, milk, or dairy-free milk)

1/2 cup low-fat vanilla or plain yogurt

Ice cubes

PREPARATION

- Place all ingredients in blender and blend until smooth.
- Serve immediately.

Fresh tip: Fruits and vegetables can be prepared in advance and frozen in individual freezer-safe bags.

Skip the ice cubes when using frozen ingredients.

Recipe from: <https://www.followfreshfromflorida.com/recipes/florida-tropical-smoothie>



Online Courses

from UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

Butterfly Gardening

Learn the basic garden design elements for a successful butterfly garden.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Free

Growing Strawberry Plants

Includes variety selection, planting, and care through the strawberry growing season.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Free

Growing Backyard Blueberries & Blackberries

Variety selection, planting, and maintenance, plus a section on raspberries.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Free

Backyard Poultry Basics

A beginner's guide to raising chickens.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



\$15

Selling Backyard Poultry Products

Learn how to start a business selling chickens, other poultry, or poultry products.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



\$20