



The Baker Bulletin

A
Baker County
Extension
Service Monthly
Newsletter

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CALADIUM FUNDRAISER**

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RUMINANTS**

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FLORIDA MANGO ICE CREAM

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



Programs & Events

- Aug 9 **Industrial Hemp Field Day** (Free!) UF/IFAS Plant Science Research and Education Unit (PSREU) in Citra, FL. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/overview-of-the-ufifas-hemp-program-tickets-381073971507>
- Aug 18 **Grape Field Day** (Free!) Register at <https://tinyurl.com/2p8udamy> or visit <https://hos.ifas.ufl.edu/grape>; for more info call Lesley Reddick (352) 591-2678 by August 12th.
- Online **Growing Blueberries & Blackberries** (Self-Paced Course — Free!) Topics include variety selection, care and maintenance, pest management, and even a section on raspberries! [Register here](#)
- Online **Selling Backyard Poultry Products** (Self-Paced, Online Course) Learn how to start a business (or improve an existing business) selling eggs, meat, or live poultry in the state of Florida. Topics include licensing/registration, record keeping, filing taxes, marketing your product, and drawing an income. [Register here.](#)

Highlights in Horticulture

By:
Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent



Caladiums

Caladiums are tropical foliage plants known for their vibrant leaf colors and patterns that bring life to shady areas of the garden. Although originally discovered in the Amazon River basin, today there are over 1,200 acres of Florida land planted with caladiums for commercial production.

Over 75 unique cultivars exist, which are broadly separated into two main categories: fancy and lance-leafed. Fancy-leafed cultivars have large heart-shaped leaves. Lance-leafed cultivars have narrow, elongated leaves.



Several caladium cultivars, planted together in a landscape bed.

Credit:
Dr. Zhanao
Deng, UF/IFAS

You can add them to your landscape in hanging baskets or containers, as borders, and as landscape accent plants. Some can also be grown indoors.

Caladium plants usually grow between 1 and 2.5 feet tall with leaves between 6 and 12 inches in length. Although commonly called caladium “bulbs”, these plants actually grow from tubers and will mature to full size in one season. All varieties die back naturally and become dormant in the winter.

For optimum foliage color and overall best results, plant in a shaded location with moist, well-drained soils, and choose a slow-release fertilizer that is low in phosphorous. Although some new cultivars have been bred to grow in direct sunlight, morning sun and then partial shade for the remainder of the day is ideal for most.

Adapted and excerpted from: Caladiums
<https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/caladiums.html>

Caladium Fundraiser

The Baker County Master Gardeners currently have caladium tubers available for purchase.

In North & Central Florida, caladium tubers are planted in the ground between April & September.

Plant your tubers at a depth of 2 inches—this means each tuber should be planted deep enough to cover them with 1.5” to 2” of soil.

Tuber spacing depends on size. Bigger tubers should be planted farther apart—jumbo tubers about 12-18” apart, smaller tubers 6-8” apart.

Water regularly after planting but avoid creating soggy soils that could cause the tubers to rot.

Choose from 2 cultivars:



Florida Cardinal

Bright red center with medium green border.



Rosebud

Rose center/main veins with green border.

Both have medium-large leaves; plants reach 12-18” tall and prefer partial sun to shade conditions.

Quantity per bag varies by size (some jumbo, some smaller) but they are packed so as not to disappoint!

Only \$5 per bag!

Extension Office Hours:
8:30am—Noon & 1:00-5:00pm

Barnyard Bulletin

By:
Alicia Halbritter,
Agriculture Agent



Planting Equipment & Strategies

Thinking about planting cool season forages for wildlife plots or pasture? Or interested in rejuvenating your bahiagrass pasture next spring? You'll need to think about how you're going to plant first.



Broadcasting Seed

Broadcast spreaders are a great tool to have on any farming operation. This equipment is more versatile than a grain drill, and much cheaper. Broadcast spreaders can be utilized to spread seed and fertilizer. Some broadcasters may have difficulty spreading smaller seeds or seeds coated in inoculant which can reduce your stands density. Due to the random nature of broadcast planting you will require a higher planting rate to achieve a more complete forage stand. If you plan to broadcast seed it is best to use some type of equipment to cover the seeds after spreading. Operations can use

a roller, cultivator, or disc to cover the seeds with soil, however some homemade options work well. I have seen chainlink fence weighed down with cinderblock, a simple chain drag implement, and other contraptions produce suitable enough forage stands.

Grain Drill

Grain drilling seed is generally considered the superior method for better germination, uniformity, and overall success of the stand. However, grain drills are much more expensive than a broadcast seeder. If you are only utilizing the drill for cool season forages it may not be financially feasible to purchase this equipment. Grain drills generally require less seeds to be planted, with some species requiring a 20% less rate compared to broadcasting, this can help reduce overall seed costs. Grain drills also afford the ability to plant a starter fertilizer with the seed (if equipment allows) which will help with initial plant growth and would benefit grazing operations looking for more yield.



Cool-Season Forage Mixes

If you plan to utilize a cool-season forage mix instead of one species it may be more difficult to plant. Different species of plants have different seeding rates, different seeding depths, and different grazing heights and times. Mixes are generally recommended as the benefits outweigh the negative aspects, however careful planning should take place to ensure proper planting density, germination, and utilization of the entire forage stand.



4-H DAY CAMPS

Sweet Treats Camp



At Sweet Treats Camp we visited the Suwannee Valley Research Extension Center, Sweet Pete's Candy Shop, and the Whetstone Chocolate Factory. We made edible fruit arrangements, rock candy, chocolate toffee, chocolate turtles, gummies, and lollipops!

Wood Working Camp



At Wood Working Camp we learned about the different types of woods, safety, PPE, and tools involved with wood working. We put together wooden animal puzzles, made hanging shelves, built step stools, a camp chair, squirrel picnic tables, and device charging stations. A special thank you to Blackburn-Curry Funeral Home and Thrift Saw Mill for their donations to make this camp affordable for participants!

4-H Club Meetings & Events

- **Baker's Busy Bees**— August 19 at 6pm in the 4-H Classroom.
- **Livestock Club**— July 26th at 6pm Ag Center Auditorium.

Florida's Native Flora & Fauna

By: Alicia Lamborn, Environmental Horticulture Agent

Featuring some of Florida's native flora (plant life) and fauna (animal life) so you can learn to recognize, appreciate, and protect native species. We'll also aim to dispel myths and provide tips for managing conflicts with wildlife.

White Oak

White Oak (*Quercus alba*) is a long-lived, slow-growing tree, reaching 60 to 100 feet in height with a spread of 50 to 90 feet.

Old specimens can be massive, growing to be several hundred years old. Since trunks can be six feet in diameter, this shade tree is best for large landscapes where it can be given plenty of room to grow.



Lobed leaves are medium green above and paler green to almost white underneath.



Acorns appear in early fall before the tree's fall color sets in. The red fall color is reliable year to year and is outstanding among the Oaks. Brown leaves may be held on the tree into the early part of the winter.



White Oak grows in full sun or partial shade and prefers an acid, moist, well-drained soil. Unfortunately, it is not readily available in the nursery trade and not well adapted to dry areas. Supply new transplants with plenty of water and mulch the area beneath the canopy to eliminate grass competition.

Dragonflies

Dragonflies are beneficial insects that have been around for more than 300 million years. Not only are they fun to watch, these fast-fliers travel at speeds up to 30 miles per hour to eat annoying insects like mosquitoes and flies while also avoiding predators such as birds and frogs. Their huge compound eyes help them see prey, which they catch in mid-air.

Most dragonfly females lay their eggs in mud or water. The aquatic nymphs (called naiads) hatch within a few weeks and then live in water for up to two years before emerging as adults.



A dragonfly naiad.

Often dragonflies are migratory, but here in Florida we also have many full-time resident populations. There are over 100 species of dragonflies found in Florida, which often have interesting and descriptive names that are based on wing characteristics, flight patterns, and reproductive habits. Clubtails, darners, skimmers, and biddies are some of the common groups of dragonflies.



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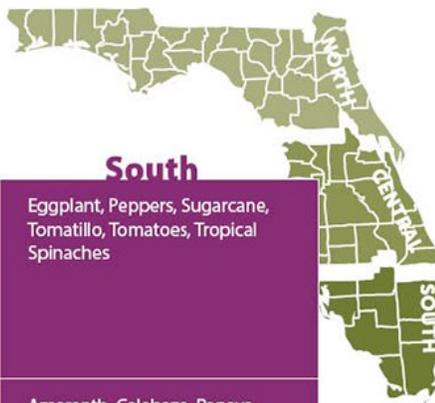
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Above left: The great pondhawk (*Erythemis vesiculosa*) is entirely green with dark abdominal bands. Above right: The black saddlebag (*Tramea lacerata*) is recognizable for the dark, saddlebag-like pattern found on its wings.

Extension Tidbits

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN

August



	North	Central	South
 Easily Survives Transplanting	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
 Transplant Carefully	Celery, Mustard	Pineapple	Amaranth, Calabaza, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes
 Use Seeds	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Cucumbers, Onions (bunching), Squashes, Turnips	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peas (southern), Squashes	Okra, Pumpkin

GARDENING RESOURCES:

[FLORIDA VEGETABLE GARDENING GUIDE](#)

[NORTH FLORIDA GARDENING CALENDAR](#)

[EDIBLE LANDSCAPING USING THE 9 FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING™ PRINCIPLES](#)

[SOIL PREPARATION & LIMING FOR VEGETABLE GARDENS](#)

[LANDSCAPE DESIGN WITH EDIBLES](#)

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



For more information, please visit
GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu

Florida Mango Ice Cream

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 Florida mangoes, diced small | 1 vanilla bean, split lengthwise |
| 2 ½ cups Florida sugar | ½ stick unsalted butter |
| 6 cups whole milk | ⅓ cup dark brown sugar |
| 2 cups heavy cream | ½ teaspoon cinnamon |
| 16 egg yolks | |

PREPARATION

Preheat a small pot over medium heat. Add mangoes, butter, brown sugar, and cinnamon. Cook until butter and sugar are melted, and mangoes have softened. Remove from heat and cool completely.

Combine milk, heavy cream, and vanilla bean in a large pot and bring to a boil, then remove from heat. Meanwhile, in a separate mixing bowl, whisk together egg yolks and sugar until completely combined. Temper egg mixture with a third of the hot milk, then slowly pour back into large pot with milk and cream, whisking constantly. Cook over medium heat until custard reaches 180-185 degrees (stir constantly) and is slightly thickened. Strain through mesh strainer into a clean bowl and chill completely (over ice bath or in refrigerator). Pour into ice cream machine and follow manufacturer's instructions. Approximately 5-10 minutes before ice cream is set, add mango mixture. Place in freezer-safe container and allow to set for at least 2 hours before serving.

Fresh tip: If you don't have vanilla bean, substitute 3 tablespoons pure vanilla extract; add to mixture at the end of the cooking process before straining. <https://www.followfreshfromflorida.com/recipes/florida-mango-ice-cream>

