



Baker County Extension Service Monthly Newsletter

April 2011

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Dear Extension Friends,

Spring has finally arrived in Northeast Florida and so has planting season. Thanks to all of you who have taken advantage of our soil testing for your gardens, pastures and lawns. If you have any questions about the results please contact Michael Davis or Alicia Lamborn. Spring also brings the threat of wildfires, so please take all precautions to prevent wildfires. If you have specific questions about burning, contact our County Forester at (904) 259-5128. As always, if we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Davis
County Extension Director / Ag Agent
Baker County Extension Service



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Highlights in Horticulture

By:

*Alicia Lamborn,
Horticulture Agent*

Species Spotlight: The Easter Lily

Native to the Ryukyu Islands of southern Japan, the Easter lily (*Lilium longiflorum*) is the most desirable plant around the time of Easter. But how did a lily that naturally blooms in summer in most of this country, become such a symbol of Easter? In the late 1800s, these bulbs were brought to a local nurseryman in Philadelphia who began forcing them into spring bloom, and selling them to florists. Many began buying this flower for Easter, which has since become a tradition.



So how are Easter lilies forced or “tricked” into bloom in time for Easter? Once greenhouse growers receive bulbs in the late fall, the bulbs are potted and placed in non-freezing cool temperatures. The bulbs must receive about 1000 hours of moist cold conditions in order to bloom, although additional light after they sprout can substitute for some cold. Once the lily bulbs sprout, they are closely monitored by growers in order to time them for Easter. This can be difficult, as Easter can vary from March 22 to April 25. Temperature is used to speed up or slow down the crop. As each plant can respond a bit differently, many plants traditionally have been moved back and forth between warm and cold greenhouse.

When buying a lily, look for a plant with flowers in various stages of bloom from buds to open or partially opened flowers. Foliage should be dense, rich green in color, and extend all the way down to the soil line. You also should check the flowers, foliage, and buds for signs of yellowing and disease.

At home, keep your lily in bright, indirect light, away from drafts and heat sources. Water the plant only when the soil feels dry to the touch. To prolong the life of the blossoms, remove the yellow anthers (pollen-bearing pods) found in the center of each flower (if the nursery hasn’t already removed them). If you get this staining pollen on fabrics, don’t rub it off, but remove it with sticky tape. Also, keep these plants away from cats. Any part of this lily, as many of its relatives, can cause kidney failure and can be fatal. If you think a cat has eaten a leaf, call a veterinarian immediately as prompt treatment may be successful.

New EDIS Publication from the University of Florida

A new publication has been recently released by the University of Florida that may be of interest to many people in Baker County. It is entitled: ‘Urban Water Quality and Fertilizer Ordinances: Avoiding Unintended Consequences: A Review of the Scientific Literature’. The document can be accessed by visiting <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ss496>. The publication is updated to include the latest research findings from research conducted in Florida and around the US.

Some primary points include:

- It was developed to respond to and answer questions from educators, county extension agents, state agencies, government representatives and leaders of the fertilizer, turf, nursery and landscape maintenance industries.
- It gives a scientific basis for decisions made by local governments relating to the protection of water quality.
- Identification of numerous sources of nutrients that are part of the problem, not one single source.

Please visit the website above for more information on this and many other topics from the University of Florida.

Living Well in Baker County

By:
Melanie Thomas,
FCS Agent

Money Matters: Financial Planning

Financial planning is important for you because many family conflicts revolve around acquiring, keeping and spending money. Many people make their lives miserable through constant striving for more and more money and material possessions in an effort to achieve economic security.

All families live under some economic pressure and tension. It is usually greater for a young, unestablished family because of inexperience and high spending needs.

Couples soon find out that two can live as cheaply as one — but only half as long. When this awareness hits, the couple has to make concrete plans concerning money matters, if they have not already done so. Before marriage, both people could spend money for their individual goals, but this changes after marriage. Previously, the money was *his* and *hers*; now it's *theirs*.

The couple will face these questions: Who opens the charge accounts? Who pays the bills? What kind of bank account will be established? Does one have to ask the other for money? Is one accountable to the other?

The best way for you to decide money matters is *together*. As a couple, you need to discuss abilities and ambitions. You need to determine who needs to do what, and who needs to have what done for him or her. Find out who can keep the checkbook balanced. Find out whose judgment on merchandise is sound. This is the time when your feelings about things are revealed. If you resent having to ask the other for money, say so. If you think that the "head of the house" has certain responsibilities, say so. To hide such feelings is far more destructive over time than to reveal them.

In the American culture, money is usually associated with security, love and achievement. Your feelings toward money influence the decisions you make about its use. Both of you should think through your own feelings and attitudes about the purpose of money.

Money gives you the means of getting what you want. If you find fresh air, a nice house, books, music and golf enjoyable, your money will allow you to buy them. If leisure time is important, money enables you to take it. If you want to help friends in need, money gives you this opportunity. Money is necessary for just about everything concerning life and living.

Both of you probably have many wants. Many wants can be satisfied by using money. There will be certain years when spending and saving may seem almost as difficult as earning money. About the time when you think you are even with the world, along comes a financial emergency. In spite of unexpected events, you can manage better if you plan the distribution of your income.

In order to get the most for your money, you have to know some facts about your own family's "income" and "outgo." You must have an understanding of some money management principles, and you should think about what is important to you and how you feel about money.

Knowing each other's values, or what is important to your spouse, and his or her attitudes about money will also help you. Planning for spending income should be a family activity whenever possible. Your children will develop their attitudes about money from you, so provide them with opportunities to learn how to manage their money.

Your feelings about money and the value you place on what money can buy will influence the procedures you use for planning and controlling your money. Here are some tips for managing your money:

- Reach an agreement with other family members about how to handle income.
- Establish in writing a clear picture of income and expenditures.
- Develop a financial plan to adapt to any new situations.
- Learn to be a master in controlling cost.

Source: Josephine Turner, Nayda I. Torres, Vervil Mitchell and Michael Gultter—[University of Florida](#), *Money and Marriage: Making Financial Plans Together* (EDIS Document FCS7010).



April 2011









Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2 
3	4	5	6 	7  	8	9 
10	11	12 	13	14	15 	16
17	18	19  	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 	30

Upcoming Programs are marked with a Program Area Symbol. Please match these symbols with the list on the following page for more information about the program.



Upcoming Programs & Events

Programs will be held at the Baker County Extension Office (Agricultural Center) unless otherwise noted.

-  **April 1** **2010-11 FL-GA Game Management Update Series, Food Plots, Tallahassee, FL.** Cost is \$25, lunch and materials included. Details and registration on-line: <http://flgagmus.eventbrite.com/>
-  **April 6** **Tri-County Pesticide Applicator School & Exam, 8:30am—5:00pm.** Pesticide application school for private applicators. A total of 7.0 CEUs (3.0 CORE, 4.0 Prvt. App.) have been approved for this course. Registration deadline is March 31, 2011 with a cost of \$5 per person for CEUs only, \$45 per person for books and exam. Please contact the Baker County Extension Office or see our website for more details.
-  **April 7** **UF-IFAS Everglades Research and Education Center Field Day, Thursday, April 7th, from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 pm, ET.** Everglades Research & Education Center, 3200 E Canal Street, Belle Glade, FL 33430. Topics include fertilization, bioenergy crops, sweet corn and silage corn breeding, sugarcane nutrition and much more. Details and registration on-line: <http://erecfieldday2011.eventbrite.com/>
-  **April 9** **3rd Annual Spring Garden Fest 8:00am to 2:00pm.** There will be plants and rain barrels for sale, educational gardening exhibits, a rain barrel raffle and plant give-aways. The festival is free and open to the entire community.
-  **April 15** **Food Preservation Program.** Held in the Bradford County Extension Office. Registration is \$20.00 per person and the class will emphasize proper canning techniques and food safety. Contact Melanie Thomas (904) 259-3520 for more details.
-  **April 19** **Tri-County Pond Management Workshop, Bradford County Extension Office.** Tips for pond management in Northeast Florida. Please contact the Bradford County Extension Office at (904) 966-6299 for additional details.
-  **April 29** **Baker County Arboretum Grand Opening 10:00am—Noon.** Join us for the grand opening of our Arboretum and Teaching Garden, complete with garden tours and tree giveaway.
-  **May 16** **Vegetable Gardening Series Part II: Pest Management 6:00pm to 7:00pm.** Dealing with pests in the vegetable garden is a gardener's toughest challenge. Come learn how to manage weeds, insects, diseases and nematodes in the vegetable garden to increase your harvest! You'll also learn about beneficial insects and how to attract them. Call (904) 259-3520 to register for this free class by Thursday, May 12th.

4-H Events for April

- April 2nd County Events 10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. Based on registration. Registration Closes April 1st.
April 7th 6:30p.m. All County 4-H Club - Classroom
April 12th 6:30p.m. Hoof N Around - Classroom
April 19th 6:00p.m. Livestock Club - Classroom

4-H Horsepower Club—Call club leader, Amy Horne, for meeting details.

The Clover Chronicle

By:

Reneé Gore,
4-H Agent

4-H CAMP CHERRY LAKE

The theme is "The Myth, The Legend, The Camp" Baker will be camping with Madison and Nassau counties again this year, **The week of June 27th - July 1st**. It promises to be a ton of fun. Kayak and Canoeing; Swimming, Environmental Education topics, Archery, and Photography are a few of the classes to choose from. Night time camp fires, singing, and line dancing galore. It is important to get your pre-registration returned as soon as possible after April 1st as sign-ups for classes will be on a first come first served basis.

Pre-registration forms will be sent to all the campers from last summer as well as any 4-H members that are ages 8 to 12. You will have a pre-registration to save your spot at camp that includes a way to pick your class choices. By returning this registration with a deposit of \$50.00 toward tuition we can begin your enrollment in camp this year. A more complete camp registration packet will be required and that is available at the office after April 1st.

Camp is \$200.00 to cover all the expenses, plus canteen, T-Shirt and bus travel. We have devised a budget system to help you with the costs of camp. At this point, families can split the cost of camp up and pay \$50.00 deposit in April and half the remaining balance in May the final balance in early June. Make checks to Baker County 4-H in the name of your sponsored child for Camp Cherry Lake.

Sponsorships and donations are also accepted if you would like to help sponsor a child in need. Contact the office for details.



County Events is Coming April 2nd

We are going to have some fun this year. I'm going to award a hand made 4-H Champion Club Banner. You're Club could win this AWESOME Banner to display at your club meetings and receive Braggin' Rights for an Entire Year just for fun! Points will be counted based on your club's participation at County Events. Get your members signed up today!

I hope each club leader and parent will promote county events and get your members to participate. A fun day is planned with speeches, demonstrations, poster contest, photography contest, share the fun and fashion revue.

After that, members will be able to blow off some steam with fun games and competitions to laugh and have a good time together while scores are tabulated for the events. Hoola Hoop Contest, Rabbit Race, leaning tower of cheeza and more.

The club with the most participation for the evening will win the Baker County 4-H County Events Banner to proudly display at their club meetings for the year and full braggin' rights.

We are just getting county events back into focus so believe me we'll go easy and make it a learning experience. If you have members that need help putting together a demonstration or speech let me know and I'll be glad to help them.

Registration forms are available on line at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>, under Upcoming Events.
Registration closes April 1st so please contact Ms. Renee asap to let her know if you are interested.

This event will only be held based on registrations.



Ag & Natural Resources Notes

By:
Michael Davis,
Agriculture Agent

Weed Species Spotlight - Florida Pusley

Florida Pusley is the common name for the *Richardia acabra*. This is a very common and troublesome weed species in Northeast Florida. It is commonly found on roadsides, in turf and in cultivated fields. The plants typically grow in a creeping fashion along the ground and have hairy stems that can reach 30 inches in length. The leaves are thick and often have rough surfaces. Flowers of this weed are white and form clusters.

Control: GrazonNext has been shown to provide excellent control, although it may act slow. Combining GrazonNext and Pasturegard will decrease the time needed for GrazonNext to act alone

Image Source: (top) Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org , (bottom) Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Source: *Weeds in Florida, SP 37, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: May 1991. Revised: December 2004. Reviewed: February 2009. David W. Hall, Vernon V. Vandiver, and Jason A. Ferrell.*



Florida Pusley
Richardia scabra



Baker County Farmers Market

The Baker County Farmers Market is open for the season! Please come out and support local growers, producers and craft-makers at the Baker County Farmers Market. The Market is at a new location this year: at Memorial Park (next to the football stadium). There will be many attractions throughout the year including live entertainment and animal adoptions. If you are interested in booth space at the Farmers Market, please contact the Baker County Chamber of Commerce at (904) 259-6433 or visit the Chamber at their office at 20 E. Macclenny Ave. The Market will run from March 5 until November 19, 2011.



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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).

Fertilizing Lawns



Lawns should be fertilized early this month. If you haven't had your soil tested, then you can follow these general guidelines for fertilizing. If you did test the soil, but aren't sure how to interpret the results, we can help! Just give us a call or set up an appointment for personal assistance.



- ◆ When purchasing a fertilizer for your lawn, look for a 15-0-15, 10-0-10, or similar fertilizer analysis.
- ◆ Consider using a controlled or slow-release fertilizer which releases some nitrogen right away and some slowly over time. This will give longer lasting results and help reduce nutrient pollution.
- ◆ The amount of fertilizer to apply depends on the % of nitrogen (first number on the fertilizer bag), whether or not nitrogen is in slow-release form, and the square footage of your lawn.
- ◆ Once you've purchased your fertilizer and measured the square footage of your lawn, the rest is simple if you use the handy fertilizer chart, located on our website http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/documents/FertilizerRatesforLawnsandLandscapes_000.pdf, which is also available at no cost from our office.

*Fertilizing the lawn is not as easy as it once was, due to environmental concerns.
But we are here to help with any questions you may have.*



Spring Garden Fest

Sponsored by the Baker County Extension Service



Saturday, April 9th 2011

8 am — 2pm

Baker County Extension Office (Ag Center)

Plants For Sale:

Annuals, perennials, houseplants, vegetables, ornamental shrubs, trees, cold-hardy palms and more!

Gardening Exhibits:

- Growing Fruits & Vegetables in Containers
- Indoor & Outdoor Composting
- Rain Barrels (for sale)
- Know Your Zone for Growing Fruits & Ornamental Plants
- Hypertufa Container Gardening (for sale)



Plant Doctor Clinic:

Let Dr. Kyle Brown Answer Your Gardening Questions

Plant Giveaways Every Hour!

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In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, F.S., persons needing accommodations or an interpreter to participate in the proceeding should notice the University of Florida Baker County Extension Service no later than 5 days prior to the meeting at 904-259-3520 or FAX 904-259-9034.



For more information
visit baker.ifas.ufl.edu

or contact

Alicia Lamborn

alamborn@ufl.edu

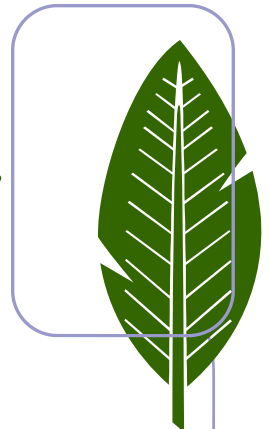
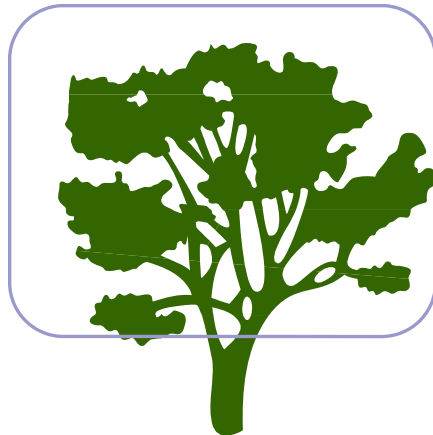
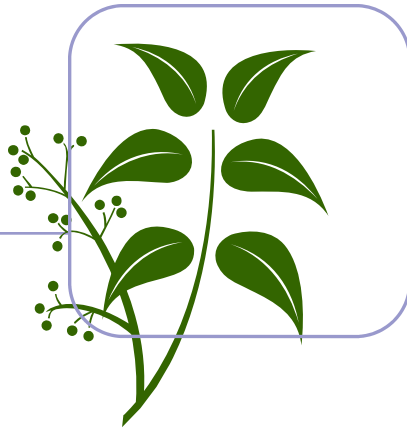
Phone: 904-259-3520

BAKER COUNTY

ARBORETUM GRAND OPENING

BAKER COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE (AG CENTER)

1025 W. MACCLENNY AVE (HWY 90), MACCLENNY, FL



The entire community is invited to join us for the Grand Opening of the Baker County Arboretum!

The Baker County Arboretum is now home for 57 Florida native and Florida-Friendly trees, featuring 38 different tree species and cultivars, all of which promote low maintenance landscapes requiring less water, fertilizer and pesticides once established.

The Grand Opening will feature:

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Tours given by Baker County Master Gardeners

Tree Giveaway (while supplies last)

DATE: APRIL 29, 2011

TIME: 10:00 AM

