



## The Baker Bulletin

A  
Baker County  
Extension  
Service Monthly  
Newsletter

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*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](mailto: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



[http://  
baker.ifas.ufl.edu](http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu)



[http://  
blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/bakerco](http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/bakerco)



[Baker County Garden Spot](#)  
[Baker County 4-H](#)



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

## Programs & Events

- Jan 10 [Whole Farm Revenue Protection & Micro Farm Roadshow](#), January 10, 10:00 AM – 12:00 noon. Farm insurance presentations and Q&A by USDA-RMA. Free.
- Jan 11 [Soil Health & Cover Crop Field Day](#), January 11, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Soil health for livestock and row-crop farming. \$15.
- Jan 20 [Introductory Tractor Driving & Safety Course](#), January 20 and 21, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. For women and beginning farmers. \$75.
- Feb 10 [Small-Scale Mushroom Production](#), February 10, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Hands-on workshop on shiitake and oyster mushroom production. \$135.
- Feb 17 [Tomato Gardening Class](#), February 17, 10:00 AM – 12:00 noon. Learn helpful tips for successful tomato growing and take home seeds to start your spring crop. Register online or at the Baker County Extension Office. \$10.
- Online [Growing Strawberries](#) (Self-Paced Course — Free!) [Register here.](#)
- 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 or improve a business selling eggs, meat, or live poultry in the state of Florida. [Register here.](#)
- Online [Backyard Chicken Class](#) (Self-Paced, Online Course) Learn how to successfully raise chickens in your backyard. [Register here.](#)

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# Highlights in Horticulture

By:  
Alicia Lamborn,  
Horticulture Agent



## Pruning After the Freeze

While you may be anxious to remove the brown plants from your landscape, it is best to wait until new growth appears in the spring to prune cold-damaged plants. While there are some exceptions, pruning too early will only expose plants to further damage should another hard freeze come along. Some plants that are okay to prune this month are deciduous trees and shrubs (remove dead, diseased, or rubbing limbs) and grapevines.

## Grapevine Pruning Time

After a grapevine has been trained, it must be pruned to keep it manageable and maximize fruit production. The best time for major pruning is mid-January to mid-March (dormant season), although touch-up pruning can be done during the growing season.

The standard rule is to remove last year's growth (fruiting wood), leaving spurs with 2 to 4 nodes, and spurs spaced about every 6 inches of cordon. Spur renewal may be needed every 3 to 6 years so that new fruiting wood (nodes) are never located more than a foot from the cordon. Spur thinning can be accomplished by removing entire spurs or part of them.

After 5 to 10 years, it is not uncommon for cordons to lose vigor or die. Simply select another young shoot to train along the wire and it will become your cordon the following year.

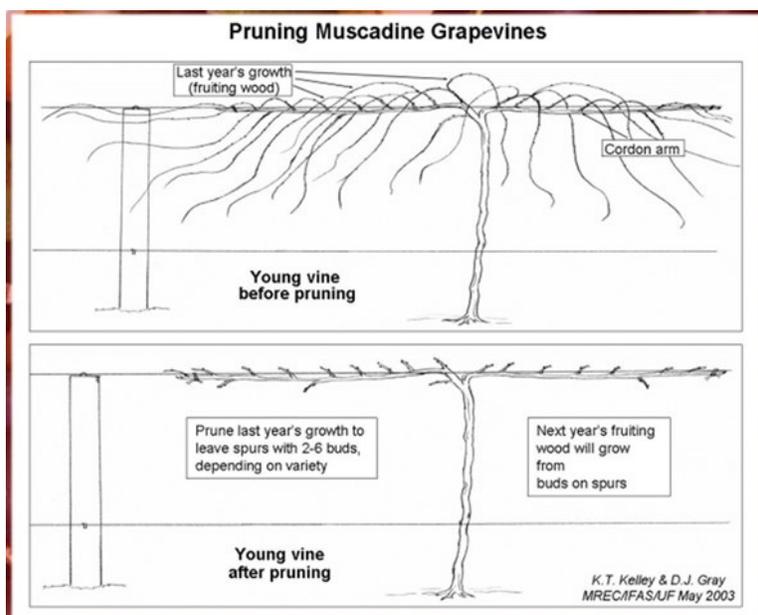


Illustration Source: [http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/grapes/vineyard/Grape-Pruning1\\_print.pdf](http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/grapes/vineyard/Grape-Pruning1_print.pdf)

## You Should Be Liken' Your Lichen

Lichens become more noticeable this time of year as deciduous plants lose their leaves for winter, leaving many gardeners concerned about the health of their trees and shrubs. Lichens are usually gray or greenish gray and grow in different forms (shown below). Some have a feathery, moss-like appearance, while others have a ruffled type of growth, or even a leaf-like form with flat sheets of growth held tightly to the bark or leaves.

These unusual creatures often get mistaken for a harmful fungus or algae that kill our beloved plants. But the truth is that lichens are actually a combination



Photo credit: Alicia Lamborn, UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

of both an alga and a fungus growing together, each one helping the other. Since the fungus is unable to produce food through photosynthesis, it is dependent on its algal partner which can produce enough food for both to survive. In turn, the alga receives water and nutrients from the fungus.

Although commonly mistaken for plant parasites, lichens growing do not harm plants in any way. They are simply using the plant as a home. In fact, lichens will grow almost anywhere including on soil, rocks, wood fences, brick houses, plants, and on other lichens. Usually lichens are most prevalent on plants which are unthrifty or declining in health for one reason or another. As the canopy of the plant becomes sparse, more sunlight is able to reach the inside branches, which makes a perfect location for lichens to grow.

The best method for controlling lichens is to keep the plants in a good growing condition. If lichens do occur, even on healthy plants, they may easily be removed by hand during dry conditions. However, since most lichens will not grow in areas with air pollution, gardeners should be glad to see a lichen here or there, as this is a sign that the air is clean!

# Barnyard Bulletin

By:  
*Alicia Halbritter,*  
*Agriculture Agent*



## Replanting Bahiagrass Pastures

### Variety Selection

There are 5 common types of Bahiagrass varieties that perform well in North Florida. Pensacola is one of the most popular, cold-tolerant, and hardy varieties. Tifton-9, TifQuik, and UF-Riata are more expensive seeds that have some desirable characteristics you may consider worth the cost. Argentine is also available but is not as cold-tolerant.



### Planting Method

You must determine if you are going to completely renovate a pasture (remove the existing forage and totally replant) or just overseed with a desirable variety. Renovation will require more seedbed preparation and can be broadcast or seed-drilled. Overseeding into an existing stand is typically recommended to use a seed-drill for better germination but a heavier seeding rate with broadcast spreading can work.



### Pasture Management

Once the pasture is planted it imperative to properly manage the land. Conduct annual soil tests before liming or fertilizing. Focus on weed management, especially in the first few years of establishment to reduce competition with unwanted plants. Lastly, manage how intensely the pasture is grazed. Over-grazing can cause more damage to a pasture than almost any other factor.



Get more info here: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AG342>



## Happy New Year!

In the New Year let's make some goals! But how do we make them and what is an appropriate way to make a goal? Webster defines goal as, "the end toward which effort is directed." For 2023, what is the end of your directed effort going to be? Goal setting can be applied to not only 4-H projects, club meetings, or events; but also in our everyday lives. One way to ensure that you achieve your goals is to set S.M.A.R.T. goals. S.M.A.R.T. goals are goals that are **s**pecific, **m**easurable, **a**ttainable, **r**elevant, and **t**ime-based.

First of all, goals need to be specific, narrow down exactly what you are wanting to achieve. What is your focus? Be as detailed as possible. Keep in mind who, what, where, when, why, and how.

Next, how will your goal be measured? How will you know when you achieve your goal? What is the quantity involved in your goal? A goal can be measured if it has a quantity associated with it.

Then, you want to make sure your goal is attainable. How realistic is the effort that you will have to put into this goal? It should be a challenge, but it shouldn't be so difficult that you can't finish. For example, if you are not a runner, a goal to run a marathon isn't as realistic as running a 1-mile fun run or 5k.

Also, you want your goal to be relevant. If it isn't relevant to you and what you are doing what's the point? The goal should be important to you and something you want to achieve.

Lastly, your goal should be time-based. If you have a goal with no end attached, when will you achieve that goal? Probably never! Be sure to set a date by which you'd like to have achieved your goal.

With all of the S.M.A.R.T. components together, you can set yourself up for success in 2023.

# IS MY GOAL S.M.A.R.T.?

Goal:

*Specific:* What EXACTLY do you want to achieve?

*Measurable:* How will you know when you've achieved it?

*Attainable:* Is it something you have control over?

*Relevant:* Why is this applicable to your life?

*Time-Based:* When do you want to achieve your goal?

## 4-H Club Meetings & Events

- January 9– 4pm, Cloverbuddies Club, 4-H Classroom
- January 17– 6pm, Baker's Busy Bees, 4-H Classroom
- January 24– 6pm, Livestock Club, Ag. Center Auditorium
- January 27 and 28, Livestock and Meats Judging Clinic, UF Meat Laboratory and UF Horse Teaching Unit 2250 Shealy Dr Gainesville, FL 32608 Register through [Eventbrite](#)

# 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.

## Blue Toadflax

Blue Toadflax, *Linaria canadensis* is a wildflower that pops up during winter and begins blooming in late winter or early spring. It is often seen on roadsides, in open fields, and in residential landscapes with its small blue/lavender flowers displayed on 12-18 inch tall stems. Despite its name, toadflax is not related to true flax. But if you look at the flowers closely, you will see they bear a close resemblance to the common garden snapdragon with which they share a family.



Blue Toadflax is an important early season food source for many pollinators.

Multiple species of bees will visit the flowers, with the larger species often bouncing the flower stem around as they grasp tightly in search of food.



The plant serves as a larval host plant for the Common Buckeye butterfly (caterpillar pictured below), and many smaller butterfly species, such as the Phaon Crescent Butterfly pictured right, also visit the flowers.



Photo credits: Alicia Lamborn, UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

## Sandhill Crane

Two subspecies of Sandhill Crane occur in Florida. The non-migratory Florida Sandhill Crane inhabits freshwater marshes, wet and dry prairies, and pastures throughout peninsular Florida north to the Okefenokee Swamp in southern Georgia. The population of 4,000+ Florida Sandhill Cranes is joined each winter by the migratory Greater Sandhill Crane which numbers close to 25,000.



Adult sexes are similar in appearance, having black legs, gray plumage (sometimes reddish-brown), whitish cheeks, and a red crown.

Nesting lasts from January through June. These birds mate for life and both mates help build the nest and incubate the two eggs laid by the female. Juveniles remain with their parents until about 10 months old.

Although Sandhill Cranes do not "fish" like herons, they eat a wide variety of foods including crayfish, frogs, lizards, small birds, mice, insects, earthworms, berries, and seeds.

Keep Sandhill Cranes wild! When cranes lose their fear of people, they can begin acting aggressively and can even become a public safety concern. For tips to avoid conflicts, please visit [Living with Sandhill Cranes](#).

Article adapted and excerpted from: <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles/birds/cranes/sandhill-crane/> Photo credits: Canva

# Extension Tidbits

## INTRODUCTORY TRACTOR DRIVING & SAFETY COURSE

*Designed for Women & Beginning Drivers*

**2-DAYS**  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 AND**  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 21**

**UF | IFAS**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Join us at this hands-on learning event  
and tradeshow.



UF/IFAS NFREC-Suwannee Valley (Farm)  
8202 County Road 417 Live Oak, FL 32060

\$75 - Registration fee covers lunch, refreshments and materials. Must be 18 to register.



For details and registration visit:

<https://TractorDriving.eventbrite.com>



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