



## The Baker Bulletin

A  
Baker County  
Extension  
Service Monthly  
Newsletter

### Baker County Extension Service

1025 W. Macclenny Ave.  
Macclenny, FL 32063

Phone: (904) 259-3520

Email: baker@ifas.ufl.edu

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

#### County Agents

**Alicia Lamborn**  
Horticulture Agent

**Shaina Spann**  
4-H Youth Development Agent

**Alicia Halbritter**  
Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

Dear Extension Friends,

Spring arrives this month, and for many that means gardening and spring cleaning—both of which are featured this month along with recipes and more. We also have some upcoming events that we invite you to join including a Pond Management Lunch-n-Learn on March 18th (info below), various 4-H activities (page 6), and our Master Gardener Plant Sale on March 27th (pages 4-5). Be sure to get your admission ticket before time slots sell out, and follow our Baker County Garden Spot Facebook page for updates on the plants we'll have available.

Sincerely,

Alicia Lamborn, County Director  
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

2021 Calendars  
Still Available  
(FREE — located  
in our lobby)



[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!

## Upcoming Programs



### 4-H & You— March 4th, 6:00pm on Zoom

Join the 4-H & You team as we discuss family emergency plans. This workshop will go over what to have on hand for emergencies and what to do during them!

Register here: <https://forms.gle/zDnmehJDCMqmcLvW9>



### Pond Management Virtual Lunch & Learn—March 18th, 12:30pm-1:00pm

Meet with UF/IFAS Extension Baker County Agriculture Agent Alicia Halbritter to learn about pond management! This workshop will discuss pond plants, aeration, and stocking/fishing your pond!

Register here: <https://bit.ly/BakerCoPonds>

# Highlights in Horticulture

By:  
Alicia Lamborn,  
Horticulture Agent



## March in the Garden

### Flowers

- Cool season annuals will continue to flourish this month. Wait until the end of the month to plant warm-season annuals like Angelonia, Begonia, and Zinnia.
- Plant bulbs such as Dahlia, Canna and Gloriosa for spring and summer flowering.



Also called as Summer Snapdragon, Angelonia flower colors include shades of white, purple, pink, and even bi-color.

### Trees & Shrubs

- Prune azaleas when they have finished blooming to reduce their size and improve their form.

### Lawns

- To prevent warm-season weeds, a general rule is to apply a pre-emergent herbicide around March 1<sup>st</sup>. See our next article to learn why “weed-n-feeds” should be avoided.
- Brown circles in the lawn could be a sign of large patch fungus (brown patch). This disease thrives with mild temperatures and moisture, especially in St. Augustine and Zoysia lawns. For more info: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh044>

### Vegetables

- Soil testing is recommended every 1-3 years, and is especially important before and after applying lime. For \$10 you can learn your lime and fertilizer requirements for the season.
- Many like to get a jump start on planting the garden this month, but freezing weather is still a threat. Consider starting seeds indoors and transplanting after the danger of frost has passed.
- Before planting, consider working some compost — 25 to 100 pounds of compost per 100 square feet— into the garden. This is especially beneficial for sandy, low fertility soils.



### Fruits & Nuts

- For info on pruning and fertilizing in the orchard, see <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker> or click [here](#).

### Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Plant Guide

Whether you need ideas for landscaping your entire yard or just need help finding that perfect plant for a trouble spot, we've got you covered! Search for non-invasive, low maintenance plants by **type** (tree, shrub, groundcover, etc.), **shape** (columnar, round, weeping, etc.), **sun/shade exposure**, and **Florida native status** using our handy online guide: <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/plants>

## Tips for Florida-Friendly Yards

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) means using low-maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices to have a beautiful landscape or bountiful garden that saves you time, energy, and money.

**Improving Soil:** For best results growing flowers or vegetables, you may need to amend the planting bed frequently by adding organic matter, such as compost, composted animal manure, or sphagnum peat moss. Organic matter retains moisture, provides nutrients, and attracts beneficial organisms like earthworms. When selecting organic matter, choose materials that are decomposed to the point of containing few or no recognizable source materials – in yard waste, that would mean you wouldn't see any leaves or sticks. The easiest way to add organic matter to an empty planting bed is to put down a layer 2–3 inches thick, then mix it into the soil using a tiller, shovel, or digging fork. In established planting areas, add organic matter as mulch around plantings each spring before the rainy season.



**Water Efficiently to Establish Trees:** Newly planted trees need regular irrigation to rapidly grow the roots necessary for proper establishment. For trees planted in spring or summer, water two to three times per week. After the first few months, provide weekly irrigation until plants are fully established. Irrigations should be 2 to 3 gallons of water per inch trunk diameter. For example, a 2-inch tree should be watered 4 to 6 gallons each irrigation. Of course, rainfall reduces the need to irrigate.

**Fertilize Appropriately:** Avoid using “weed-n-feed” fertilizers. These contain herbicides and fertilizer together. March is the correct time to weed your yard with a pre-emergent herbicide. But feeding should wait until April when grass growth resumes, and roots can take up the fertilizer you lay down. Because the appropriate time is different, applying herbicides and fertilizers together almost ensures that one or the other is ineffective, if not harmful. Also consider that pesticides should be applied only to affected areas rather than broadcast over the entire yard, and some “weed and feed” products can injure tree and shrub roots that extend into turf areas where fertilizer would normally be applied.

**Irrigation System Maintenance:** An irrigation system is only as efficient as it's maintained to be.



- Check for and repair leaks.
- Unclog and replace broken heads.
- Point heads at plants, not driveways and sidewalks.
- Prune plants that interfere with irrigation systems.

# 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.

## Red Buckeye

The red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) is a small, deciduous tree native to the southeastern United States, extending west Texas and as far north as southern Illinois.



Photo credit: Canva Images

In Florida, it grows well in north and central locations, zones 8-9A. This tree's small size (15-20 feet tall and wide), course texture, and versatile light requirement and soil tolerances means most landscapes can accommodate a red buckeye.

In winter, gardeners find the light brown, flaky bark appealing. But it's the springtime display of color that is most attractive.

Beautiful red flowers emerge in clusters on panicles that are very showy. Their tubular shape also makes them attractive to hummingbirds.

Leaves are palmately compound (usually made up of 5 leaflets), adding to the attractiveness of the tree.



Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Red buckeye will flower well in dense shade but has better form when grown in full sun with some afternoon shade. Plant in moist, well-drained soil, and remember to irrigate during dry spells to keep it healthy.

For more information, see:  
*Aesculus pavia*, Red Buckeye  
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st064>

## Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Hummingbirds live only in the Americas. Of the 338 species known, 16 are found in the United States and 3 occur in Florida. Black-chinned and rufous hummingbirds can be seen in Florida during the winter, but the ruby-throated hummingbird is by far the most common in the state.

These birds are small—about 3 inches—and weigh as little as a penny ( $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce). Their back feathers are metallic green, but their name derives from the ruby red throat plumage found on mature males. The throat feathers contain air bubbles that give off an iridescent red tone in full light.

Hummingbirds have the fascinating ability to perform helicopter-like flying stunts. Not only can hummers suspend their bodies in midair, they can also fly backward, upward, even upside down.



UF/IFAS

Nesting in Florida begins in April. The walnut-size nest is constructed with plant down, lichens, moss, and bound with spider webs or fine plant fibers. The female lays 2 eggs less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long. After 20 days of incubation and 4 weeks of growing, young hummingbirds leave the nest.

Adults feed primarily on nectar. Young are fed insects by their parents, but are switched to a mostly nectar diet by the time they leave the nest. One hummingbird may need nectar from hundreds of blossoms every day to maintain its body weight.

Artificial feeders should not be the sole source of food provided. The sugar solution provides little nourishment and must be changed every 3-5 days to prevent lethal bacterial growth. Clean the feeders with hot water and white vinegar. Do not use soap or chlorine bleach.

For a list of hummingbird plants, see link below!

Adapted and excerpted from: Hummingbirds of Florida  
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw059>

MARCH 27, 2021

# Master Gardener PLANT SALE

## New this year:



### Pick your 1-hour time slot

Value hour begins @ 11am (most plants marked down)



### Purchase your admission ticket by Friday, March 26

\$2 per person (ages 10+); children under 10 are free with paying adult



### Shop for plants and help us raise money for the rest of our arboretum sidewalk!

#### Location:

UF / IFAS Baker County  
Extension Office (Ag Center)  
Arboretum & Gardens  
1025 W. Macclenny Ave.  
Macclenny, FL 32063  
(904) 259-3520

#### Safety Guidelines:

- FACE COVERINGS (MASKS) REQUIRED FOR ALL PERSONS (ages 2 & up)
- Limit of 50 shoppers per hour
- Social distancing required while shopping
- Surfaces disinfected between groups

#### **Purchase tickets at the Extension Office or online:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/baker-county-master-gardener-plant-sale-tickets-136844185643>



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*Face coverings are required for all participants at in-person events. Individuals at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 (including older adults and vulnerable people of all ages with certain underlying medical conditions) should avoid in-person events and gatherings at this time.*

MARCH 27, 2021

# Master Gardener PLANT SALE

## A fundraiser for the Baker County Arboretum

### Vegetables & Herbs

Heirloom Tomatoes (Cherry, Ace 55, Golden Jubilee, Brandywine Beefsteak, Yellow Pear, Plum Roma, Tomatillo)	Eggplant
Peppers (Bell, Banana, Jalapeno, Serrano)	Rosemary
Squash & Zucchini	'Mojito' Mint
	Lemon Balm
	Chives    Fennel
	Roselle (FL Cranberry)

### Flowers

Black-eyed Susan	Sunflowers	Amaryllis
Purple Coneflower	Blackberry Lily	Swamp Hibiscus
Marigolds	Autumn Sage	Cosmos
Zinnias	Swamp Sunflower	Gaillardia
Indigo Spires	Daylilies	Mexican Sage
Salvia	Blue Flag Iris	Scorpion-tail

### Cotton Rose

Hydrangeas  
(Oakleaf, French)

Hollies

Sweet Almond Bush

### Trees & Shrubs

Azaleas

Cedars

Snow Bush

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

Firebush

Pineapple Guava

Sago Palms

Anise

### Sweet Tea Olive

Camellia

Boxwood

Cleyera

Viburnum

### Grasses & Groundcovers

Purple Fountain

Ruby Grass

Muhly Grass

Indian Wood Oats

Var. Purple Queen

White Yarrow

Cast Iron

Flax Lily

### Vines

Coral Honeysuckle

Butterfly Vine

Passion Flower

Bleeding Heart

### Other

Succulents

Houseplants

Hanging Baskets

Foliage/Patio

Orchids

Bromeliads

Epiphyllum

Angel-wing Begonia

Heirloom Roses

Rare/Unusual/  
Hard-to-Find Plants

\*List is not all inclusive\*

\*\*Plants listed subject to availability\*\*

## Purchase tickets at the Extension Office or online:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/baker-county-master-gardener-plant-sale-tickets-136844185643>



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## MEETINGS IN 2021

In 2021 clubs will begin meeting again in person! We must follow the University of Florida's Social Distancing Policies at all in-person gatherings. To attend meetings, everyone must pre-register. Members will be considered first, then others, up to 50 people or half room capacity (whichever is smaller). Face coverings are required at all in-person events, no exceptions. For those unable to meet in person, virtual alternatives will be provided. Remember, these are protocols that have been put into place to allow us to meet during a global pandemic.

**Livestock Club**– Ages 5-18. 4th Tuesday of the month at 6pm in the Auditorium. <https://forms.gle/KEudi7M2XuRM7unn8>

**Cloverleaf Cloggers**– TBA.

**Junior Beekeepers Club!** Coming Soon!

## VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITIES

**4-H & You**– March 4th @ 6pm on Zoom. Register here: <https://forms.gle/zDnmeHJDCMqmcLvW9>

**3rd Executive Board**– March 25-26th on Zoom. For Ages 14+. Registration through 4-H Online 2.0.

**4-H County Events** Entries due April 19th. More details to follow.

## 4-H Member Recipes

### Chocolate Cake

Submitted by: Paisley Lee

#### Ingredients:

- 4 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- ½ cup cocoa
- 4 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 cups mayonnaise
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 cups water

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour two 9 inch cake pans.
2. In a large bowl add the flour, sugar, cocoa and baking soda. Take a whisk and whisk the dry ingredients to remove any lumps.
3. In a medium bowl add the mayonnaise, vanilla, and water and using a whisk mix together until smooth.
4. Slowly add the wet mixture to the dry mixture and stir just until combined. Do not overmix.
5. Divide the batter between the two prepared pans.
6. Bake for 30 minutes or until toothpick or cake tester comes out clean.

#### Icing:

- 2 packs of cheesecake pudding
- 1 block of cream cheese
- 8 oz of cool whip

Prepare pudding and then mix in the cream cheese. Once that is mixed, fold in the cool whip and ice the cake.



**Paisley Lee with the chocolate cake she made for her Dad's birthday.**



## Equine Vaccines in Florida



Florida can be a hotspot for livestock diseases due to our proximity to foreign countries, high mosquito population, and frequent travelers. It is important to make sure our horses are properly vaccinated to prevent issues with our core diseases.

**Tetanus:** Tetanus originates from the clostridium tetani bacterium in the soil and can often be found in the intestine and manure of horses. Animals typically are affected with this infection through a wound. Without proper treatment cases can become severe and cause death.

**Equine Encephalomyelitis Virus** (Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE), Western Equine Encephalomyelitis (WEE), Venezuela Equine Encephalomyelitis (VEE)): These viruses are transmitted by mosquitos from infected birds or rodents to horses. The death rates for encephalomyelitis are quite high and loss is experienced 70-90% of the time. Horses should be vaccinated twice a year (spring and fall) for at least EEE and WEE.

**West Nile Virus:** West Nile is also transmitted by mosquitoes and horses should receive this vaccine annually. Although the death rate is lower (33%), infection can cause neurological problems which may have long lasting effects.

**Rabies:** Rabies infections are rare in horses but are fatal in all cases. Horses should be vaccinated annually, especially where rabies is endemic in the wildlife population nearby.

**Optional Vaccines:** For horses that are traveling frequently, boarded, or are breeding your veterinarian may encourage vaccines outside of the core vaccines. Your vet may recommend vaccination for equine influenza, EHV, strangles, botulism, rotavirus, or equine viral arteritis. These vaccines protect against some of the less common infections and therefore may not be necessary for all horses.

When developing a vaccination protocol for your horse, always work with your veterinarian to determine what is best and aligns with current research. It is possible to vaccinate your horses without the use of a veterinarian, except in the case of rabies which must be administered by a vet in the state of Florida.

# Extension Tidbits

## Fresh from Florida Recipe

This recipe is perfect for when the days begin to get warmer!

### Ingredients

2 clamshells Florida grape tomatoes, rinsed and cut in half  
 1 pound orzo pasta, cooked according to directions on package and cooled completely  
 1 cup fresh basil, chopped fine  
 1 1/2 lemons, juiced  
 1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated  
 2 tablespoons olive oil, plus more if desired  
 Sea salt and fresh ground pepper to taste

### Directions

Cook 1 lb of orzo pasta and let cool. Rinse 2 clamshells of Florida grape tomatoes and cut in halves. Combine tomatoes, basil, lemon juice, Parmesan cheese, and olive oil in medium bowl. Add salt and pepper to taste, mix thoroughly. Serve at room temperature.

Recipe from: <https://www.followfreshfromflorida.com/recipes/florida-grape-tomato-and-orzo-pasta-salad>



## What's in Season Now?

Look for these "Fresh From Florida" items  
 in your grocery store during  
**March**



Bell Peppers



Broccoli



Cabbage



Carambola



Cauliflower



Celery



Cucumbers



Eggplant



Grapefruit



Guava



Lettuce



Mushrooms



Oranges



Papaya



Peanuts



Potatoes



Radishes



Snap Beans



Spinach



Squash



Strawberries



Sweet Corn



Tangerines



Tomatoes

## Spring Cleaning?

Take care when potentially mixing chemicals!

## MONSTER MIXTURES

**DANGEROUS HOUSEHOLD CLEANING COMBINATIONS!**



The CDC\* recommends that we clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces to kill viruses and bacteria that can make us sick. You might be tempted to use two or more cleaning products together to make them more effective. **BUT STOP!** Common cleaners that are safe to use by themselves can be very dangerous if they are used together.

In some instances, these mixtures can cause breathing problems within minutes of inhaling the vapors!

Follow label instructions, store cleaners in their original containers, do not use more cleaner than is recommended on the label, and never mix cleaners or use them one right after another without rinsing first with water.

• **Mixing bleach and vinegar** can irritate your eyes, make you cough, and cause breathing problems.

• **Mixing bleach and ammonia** produces a toxic gas that causes shortness of breath and chest pain.

• **Mixing bleach and alcohol** (both rubbing alcohol and ethyl alcohol) can damage your eyes, lungs, and liver.

• **Mixing hydrogen peroxide and vinegar** produces a corrosive acid that will irritate your eyes, skin, and respiratory tract.

Cantrell, Randall A, assistant professor, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepandemic/cleaning-disinfection.html>



Beware of the potential health risk from breathing these household chemicals. Use cleaners as the label instructs, in the amounts advised, and separately from other cleaners to avoid creating a monster mixture—and a serious risk to your health!



#FreshFromFlorida



What did the tomato say to the lettuce?  
 I love you from my head to-ma-toes!