

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)

Holiday Closures

December 24th 25th 26th & 31st and January 1st

County Agents

Alicia Lamborn, Horticulture Agent

Shaina Spann, 4-H Youth Development Agent

Alicia Halbritter, Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent



sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker



blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/bakerco/



[Agriculture in North Florida](#)

[Baker County Garden Spot](#)

[Baker County 4-H](#)

December 2025



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4-H Youth Development

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 8

Holiday Bake & Chili Cook-off, 6-7PM



Dec 22 & 23

Holiday Day Camp



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HIGHLIGHTS IN HORTICULTURE

2

By Alicia Lamborn, Environmental Horticulture Agent

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN *December*

North

Central

South



Easily
Survives
Transplanting

Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard



Transplant
Carefully

Celery, Mustard, Spinach



Use
Seeds

Carrots, Onions (bunching), Radish, Turnips

Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard

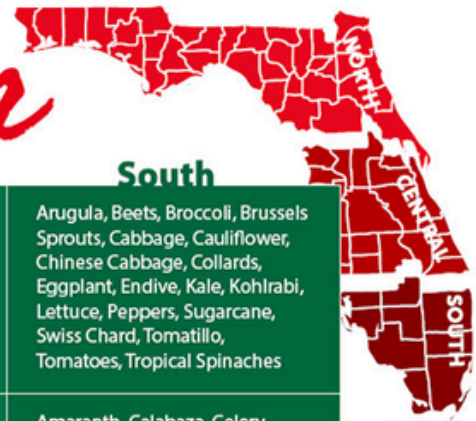
Celery, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Spinach

Carrots, Onions (bunching), Peas (English), Radish, Turnips

Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches

Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squash, Luffa, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes

Beans (bush, lima, pole), Cantaloupes, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Onions (bunching), Peas (English, southern), Radish, Squashes, Turnips, Watermelon



Growing Tips:

Chinese Cabbage:

This easy-to-grow veggie exists in two types: Heading & Open Leaf

All major types grow well in Florida. These include Michihli, Napa, Wong Bok, Bok Choy, Pak-choi, and Joi Choi.

Enjoy Chinese cabbage boiled, stir-fried, sauteed, or included in salads.

For information on growing common cabbage, see: [Tips for Growing Cabbage](#)

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

Florida-Friendly Landscaping Tips

December

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.

✓ CREATURE COMFORTS: BAT HOUSES

A small bat house in your yard can provide a roost for bats. An individual bat can eat thousands of insects in a night, reducing insect pest populations in the garden.

Bat houses aren't complex structures, and designs are easy to find in books and online. Or, you can purchase one ready-made from some garden centers.

Your bat house should be tall, shallow, and hung at least 12-15 feet above the ground on the south or southeast side of a tree, pole, or building. The site should be fairly open and easy for bats to see.

✓ REDUCE YOUR PRUNING LOAD

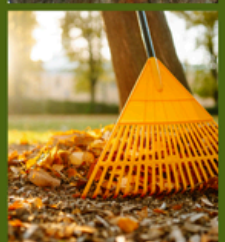
Keep your pruning chores to a minimum by selecting slow-growing plants. Place plants far enough from walkways, driveways, or buildings to allow them to reach maturity without encountering obstructions that require hauling out the pruners. Forget the clipped, formal look. Soft, flowing, natural lines are attractive and easy to maintain.

✓ RAKING: IS IT NEEDED?

Many new Floridians avoid having deciduous trees in their yards because they believe that fallen leaves require raking. But deciduous trees reduce energy costs to nearby structures and provide habitat for a variety of living things.

If aesthetics are an issue, rake up leaves and pine needles and use them as mulch or add them to the compost pile. Or, permit leaves to remain under trees to form a self-mulching area.

Leaves add nutrients to soil as they decompose and are a significant habitat for animals (birds, squirrels, opossums, and rabbits), invertebrates (insects, spiders, worms, and millipedes), and microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, and other microbes)



FOR MORE
INFORMATION:

<https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/>

<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker/>

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BARNYARD BULLETIN

By Alicia Halbritter, Agriculture Agent

Planting Your Own Christmas Trees



Florida is not a common place for Christmas tree production commercially, but there is nothing stopping you from planting your own Christmas tree! It takes very little time and effort to produce beautiful trees that can be cut and brought inside each holiday season, or left to grow and enjoyed outdoors.

Red Cedar -

This Florida native is the classic southern evergreen. Growing quickly to the desired heights of 4'-10', emitting a "Christmas tree smell", and possessing dark, dense foliage, Red Cedar makes an excellent Christmas tree! Red Cedar performs very well in most soils but does not like wet feet and will not tolerate continuously saturated areas.



Leyland Cypress -

A hybrid of Alaskan Cedar and Monterrey Cypress, Leyland Cypress is recognized as one of the most popular Deep South grown Christmas trees for good reason. Leylands grow exceptionally fast, are a desirable forest green color, and have a naturally conical shape! Though not recommended as long-term landscape trees in Florida due to disease susceptibility, Leylands do very well in short Christmas tree rotations.

Arizona Cypress -

Arizona Cypress is the Christmas tree for those who would normally choose to be different by purchasing a blue, silver, or white artificial tree! Famous for its striking blue/silver foliage, Arizona Cypress is native to the American Southwest but thrives in the drier sandy soils found in many parts of Florida.

Thuja 'Green Giant' -

'Green Giant' is a cultivar of Thuja and is similar in appearance to Leyland Cypress. Though not quite as deep green in color as Leyland, 'Green Giant' also grows rapidly (up to 3'-4' annually), tolerates many soil conditions, and has no serious insect/disease issues.

Sand Pine -

The quintessential "Cracker Christmas Tree", Sand Pine is native to the deep sandy ridges of Florida. Normally thought of as a scrubby, low-value tree, when shaped a little, the short-needled Sand Pine makes an excellent Christmas tree! Obviously preferring a dry, sandy site but capable of growing nearly anywhere, Sand Pine has no pest or disease issues and grows fast! If you want a true, old-school Florida Christmas tree, Sand Pine is it.

Tips & Tricks for Growing Your Christmas Tree:

- Cut/remove J or circling roots before planting.
- Plant just higher than ground level.
- Refill the hole with native soil from the site.
- Regular irrigation for the first several months of their lives is necessary and trees will benefit from supplemental fertilizer applications twice a year (spring and mid-summer).
- Shaping trees each summer with hedge shears to achieve the desired dense, compact shape will allow for a uniform tree with no "holes".
- Plant several trees per year to ensure a nice tree come December, just in case.
- Florida trees will not have dense branches to support heavy ornaments.
- It can take 3-6 years to reach desired cutting size, so be sure to plant at least 1 tree each year to have a continual supply of choices year after year.



LUCKY CLOVER CHRONICLE

By Shaina Spann, 4-H Youth Development Agent



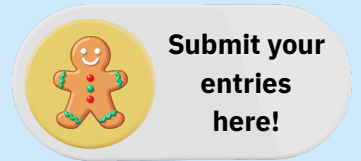
HOLIDAY BAKE-OFF *and more!*

The purpose of the Holiday Bake-Off is to encourage adults and youth to work together on a project. This is not a traditional 4-H contest where a 4-H member must do all the work themselves. Mixes, precooked, and non-cooked items may be used in the finished product. Work should be done by the youth with supervision, directions and help of an adult. Entries must have a festive holiday appearance. NO LIVE PLANT MATERIAL (SUCH AS HOLLY, POINSETTIA, BOXWOOD, ETC.) MAY BE USED! PRODUCT WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

Completed entry form must accompany your entry item. The Agent reserves the right to re-classify entry if needed and participants will be informed as soon as possible. One recipe for each entry must be submitted so that everyone may sample the product after the awards presentation,

Categories:

- Cakes
- Decorated cakes
- Cupcakes
- Pies
- Candies
- Cookies
- Gingerbread Cookies
- Brownies/Bar Cookies
- Boards (Charcuterie/Buttercream)
- Breads
- Specialty Items (Such as Gingerbread Houses or decorated cakes not to be sampled)
- Appetizers
- Lite Recipes (for health conscious, that use less sugar, salt, and fat than the traditional holiday recipes)

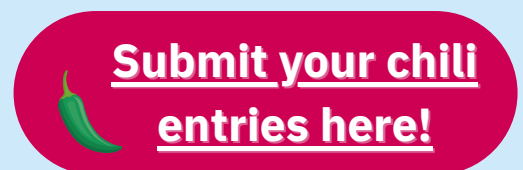


Entries will be due Monday, December 8th from 8:30am-10:30am

CHILI ENTRIES DUE:

December 8th from 5-6pm.

\$5 per entry. Winner will receive gift basket.



4-H Club Meetings & Events

- Dec 02- Baker's Acres Baking Day
- **Dec 08- Holiday Bake & Chili Cook-Off, 6pm**
- Dec 22 & 23-Holiday Day Camp



Check out our
Livestock Google Site!

Happy Holidays

**Register for a 4-H In
School program here!**

REMIND APP

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

**Re-Enroll for
4-H Today!**