

# 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)

### County Agents

Alicia Lamborn, Horticulture Agent

Shaina Spann, 4-H Youth Development Agent

Alicia Halbritter, Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent



[sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker](https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/baker)



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



[Agriculture in North Florida](#)

[Baker County Garden Spot](#)

[Baker County 4-H](#)

## March 2025



### Spring Plant Sale p. 2

Horticulture p. 3

Agriculture p. 4

4-H Youth Development p. 5



### Extension Tidbits p. 6

## Programs & Events

- March 4** Terrariums - 6:00pm @ Maxville Branch Library. These miniature indoor gardens are works of art! Learn how to create one of your own with help from a Baker County Master Gardener Volunteer. [Life Lab: Terrariums - Jacksonville Public Library](#)
- Online** Florida-Friendly Landscaping - This free, self-paced, online course will guide you through the 9 principles to keep your yard and garden healthy using less time, money, and resources. Register here: <https://forms.gle/o87D5gYauQVQNQ2s7>
- Online** Butterfly Gardening - Learn the basic garden design elements for a successful butterfly garden. Helpful resources and seeds for your garden included! Free, self-paced course. Register here: <https://forms.gle/o3SVghr6xtvwGQ637>

## Announcements



Renovations began July 15, 2024. Please be patient with us during this time. The auditorium is not available for rentals while construction is underway.





2025  
*Master Gardener*  
**PLANT  
SALE**



**A fundraiser for the  
Baker County Arboretum  
& Horticulture Program**

- Free entry!
- Shop for a cause!
- Stroll through the gardens!
- Enjoy free activities for the kids!
- Don't forget your wagon!

UF/IFAS Extension Baker County  
📞 904-259-3520

**FEATURING**

-  Trees & Shrubs
-  Flowering Perennials
-  Fruits, Vegetables, Herbs
-  Houseplants & Foliage
-  Grasses & Groundcovers
-  Vines, Succulents, & More!

**APRIL 5**

**8AM - NOON**

**Agricultural Center  
1025 W. Macclenny Ave.  
Macclenny, FL 32063**

**UF** | IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA  
*An Equal Opportunity Institution*



# HIGHLIGHTS IN HORTICULTURE

By Alicia Lamborn, Environmental Horticulture Agent



## EDIBLES TO PLANT IN March



### Growing Tips:

**Boniato:** Also called tropical sweet potato, and grown similarly although storage life is shorter than with sweet potato. You can start with draws, slips, transplants, or vine cuttings. Plants should be spaced 12 inches apart from each other in rows that are spaced 3 to 4 feet apart. Yields vary from plant to plant; however harvests generally occur between 120 and 180 days after planting.

	North	Central	South
Easily Survives Transplanting	Arugula, Boniato, Eggplant, Kohlrabi, Peppers, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes	Arugula, Boniato, Chinese Cabbage, Gingers, Kohlrabi, Peppers, Roselle, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tropical Spinaches	Arugula, Boniato, Chinese Cabbage, Endive, Gingers, Roselle, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tropical Spinaches
Transplant Carefully	Spinach, Sweet Potatoes	Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squash, Luffa, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pigeon Pea, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes, Yucca	Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes, Yucca
Use Seeds	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Cantaloupes, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peanuts, Peas (English, southern), Radish, Squashes, Watermelon	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Cantaloupes, Carrots, Chayote, Corn, Cucumbers, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peas (southern), Radish, Squashes, Watermelon	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Cantaloupes, Carrots, Chayote, Corn, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peas (southern), Radish, Squashes, Watermelon



For more information, please visit [GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu](http://GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu)



## Florida-Friendly Landscaping Tips

### March

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.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

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

UF IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
An Equal Opportunity Institution



## BARNYARD BULLETIN

By Alicia Halbritter, Agriculture Agent

# Summer Wildlife Food Plots



Food plots are a great way to improve wildlife nutrition during critical times of the year, such as antler development, gestational periods, and nursing periods. Typically, winter food plots are a popular option for hunters who utilize them as an attractant to hunting locations. Warm season food plots are an additional option for wildlife managers to improve the nutritional plane of whitetail deer, turkeys, and other game in addition to helping keep animals in the general area of desirable hunting spots.

Warm season plots are typically larger than cool season plots in order to provide adequate nutrition. 5 to 10 acres may be needed depending on deer density. It is recommended to complete soil tests in the location prior to planting,

Warm season plots are typically planted between April and June, depending on the species selected. Plots should have well drained soils and a soil pH between 5.5 and 6.5. See the table below for species recommendations and related planting directions.



Forage	Lbs/Acre	Planting Dates	Depth	Crude Protein
Alyceclover	15-20 broadcast 15-17 drilled	April-June	1/4 to 1/2 inch	16-18%
Jointvetch	20-25 broadcast 5-8 drilled	March-June	1/2 - 3/4 inch	8-18%
Forage Soybeans	50-70 broadcast 30-50 drilled	April-June	1/2 to 1 inch	17-21%
Iron Clay Peas	100-120 broadcast 30-40 drilled	May-June	1/4 to 1/2 inch	17-21%
Brown Top Millet	25-30 broadcast 15-20 drilled	May-August	1/2 inch	8-11%



# LUCKY CLOVER CHRONICLE

By Shaina Spann, 4-H Youth Development Agent



## Summer Save-the-Dates

### June 8-10: iLEAD overnight camp at University of Florida Campus

Ages 11-13 (as of 9/1/24)

All intermediate aged youth are invited to the University of Florida's campus for a two night and full day leadership development experience. They will have the opportunity to connect with others from across the state of Florida and explore potential interests to ignite their spark in life.

### June 16-19: Wonderful World of Water

Ages: 8-13 (as of 9/1/24)

Come explore the water that makes our world! This camp will visit fresh and saltwater ecosystems in Florida.

### June 23-26: All About Animals

Ages: 8-13 (as of 9/1/24)

This camp will explore animals! Participants will visit animals that are exotic, farm, aquatic, and more!

### July 14-17: Sweet Treats

Ages 8-13 (as of 9/1/2024)

This camp will explore all things sweet to eat! From fruit to candies, it's definitely going to be delicious!

### July 21-24: Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead Camp

Ages 8-13 (as of 9/1/2024)

This camp will focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. We will take field trips to various places and investigate the amazing realm of the sciences.

Registration will go live in April and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Coop to Plate SPIN Club

Online course materials will walk you through how to properly raise your provided meat chickens all the way up until processing day. The in-person processing day will allow you & your youth the opportunity to harvest & prepare your meat birds for freezing. Processing is a required portion of this project and must be completed with the extension office.

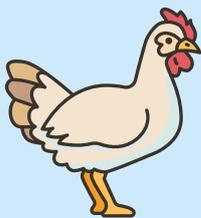
This year, youth will attend an interest/sign-up meeting in order to finalize registration for the project. This meeting is **REQUIRED** for all participants!

Payment is due at the end of the meeting in cash or check.

Participant fee: \$20 each

Chicks: \$3 per chick, up to 10 chicks per family

Register for the meeting here: <https://2025cooptoplate.eventbrite.com>

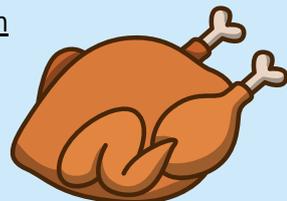


### IMPORTANT DATES:

Sign Up Meeting: March 10th

Chick Pick Up: April 4th 1pm-5pm

Processing Day: May 31st, 2025



## 4-H Club Meetings & Events

- March 3- Cloverbuddies, 4pm, Auditorium
- March 10- Coop to Plate Meeting, 6pm
- March 31- Commitment Forms Due
- April 7- Cloverbuddies, 4pm, Auditorium
- April 8- New Family Orientation, 6pm, Auditorium
- April 22- LIVESTOCK EXPO, 6pm Fairgrounds
- May 01- 2023-2024 4-H Awards, 6pm, Auditorium

### REMIND APP

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



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

# EXTENSION TIDBITS

## Ingredients

6 Florida peaches, diced small  
4 tablespoons Florida Orange blossom honey  
2 cups ricotta cheese (whole milk or skim)  
1 pack puff pastry shells, store-bought  
1 tablespoon fresh thyme, chopped fine  
Pinch of sea salt

## Preparation

Preheat oven and bake puff pastry shells according to instructions on package.  
Remove and allow to cool completely.

In a small bowl combine ricotta cheese and 3 tablespoons honey. In a separate bowl combine peaches and thyme. Fill each pastry shell with ricotta mixture. Top with diced peaches and drizzle with remaining honey to finish.



## Florida Peach Puff Pastry

<https://www.followfreshfromflorida.com/recipes/florida-peach-puff-pastry>

# PLANT SALE PREVIEW

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Master Gardener

PLANT SALE

8:00 AM - NOON

### Landscape

Agastache 'Little Adder'  
Azaleas (assorted, native)  
Baby Sun Rose, variegated  
Beautyberry  
Bloodleaf Iresine  
Blue Daze  
Blue Flag Iris  
Blue Hibiscus  
Buttonbush  
Coreopsis  
Crocosmia  
Crossvine  
Eastern Gama Grass  
False Indigo (Amorpha)  
Florida Red Anise  
Gaillardia Indian Blanket  
Gloxinia 'Bolivian Sunset'

Gopher Apple  
Greeneyes  
Hazel Alder  
Muhley Grass, pink  
Native Milkweed  
Plumbago, white  
Purpletop Tridens  
Rain Lily  
Rough Skullcap Scutellaria  
Rudbeckia (assorted, native)  
Salvia 'Black and Blue'  
Salvia greggii 'Raspberry'  
Salvia 'Indigo Spires'  
Strawberry Bush  
Sweet Almond Bush  
Verbena 'Homestead Purple'  
Woodland Phlox

### Garden / Orchard

Heirloom Tomatoes & Peppers  
Squash, Zucchini, Eggplant  
Roselle (Florida Cranberry)  
Mint, Chives, Fennel  
Rosemary, Lemon Balm  
Okinawa Spinach  
Basil, Sage, Cilantro, Dill  
Thyme, Tarragon, Marjoram,  
Catnip, Blueberries, Citrus  
Elderberry

**Houseplants,  
Succulents,  
Hanging Baskets  
Oddities & More!**

Plant selection & availability subject to change  
- follow our Facebook event page for updates!



UF/IFAS  
Extension  
Baker County  
Garden Spot