



Highlights in

Horticulture

Baker County

Dear Extension Friends,

March 2009

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Spring will officially be here on March 20th and I know many of us can't wait to start planting our gardens. If you're unsure of what to plant or have gardening questions, your local county extension office is here to help! We are available to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 12 pm and 1pm to 5 pm. Just call 904-259-3520 or stop by and see us!

Best Regards,

Alicia

Alicia R. Lamborn
Horticulture Extension Agent
Baker County Extension Service



Upcoming Programs and Events: March & April

- March 19th — **Plant Propagation, Grafting, & Budding** 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Learn the basics of plant propagation plus grafting and budding techniques. Class is free; please RSVP by Wed., March 18th at 5 pm.
- March 24th — **Turfgrass Workshop** 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. This class will teach participants about best management practices for maintaining turfgrass. \$3 registration fee for materials and refreshments due by Monday, March 23rd at 5 pm.
- April 4th — **Spring Garden Fest** 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. The 1st Annual Spring Garden Fest has something for everyone...plants for sale, gardening demonstrations, Master Gardener Plant Clinic, and Children's Activities.
- April 23rd — **Butterfly Gardening** 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Florida is home to more than 180 species of butterflies. Learn about the butterfly life cycle and the many secrets to attracting more of these creatures into your yard. There is no charge for this class; please RSVP by Wednesday, April 22nd.
- April 30th — **Rain Barrel Workshop** 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Participants will learn about techniques to reduce water use in the landscape and build their own rain barrel for immediate use. All materials are provided for this "make and take" rain barrel workshop. \$38 fee for materials (per barrel) is due by Tuesday, April 21st by 5pm.

All programs and events listed above will take place at the Baker County Extension Office (Agriculture Center), 1025 W. Macclenny Ave. (Hwy 90), Macclenny, FL.

Please call 904-259-3520 or email alamborn@ufl.edu to register or for more information.



The Edible Garden – Vegetable Planting Guide

The following is a new list of tested vegetable varieties that grow well in Florida, all of which can be planted during March and April. However, if you decide to start planting outside this month, be prepared to protect young crops from late freezes.

Beans, bush –

Snap: Bush Blue Lake, Contender, Roma II, Provider, Cherokee Wax

Shell: Horticultural, Pinto, Red Kidney, Black Bean, Navy

Beans, pole – McCaslan, Kentucky Wonder, Blue Lake

Beans, lima – Foodhook 242, Henderson, Jackson Wonder, Dixie (Speckled) Butterpea, Early Thorogreen

Collards – Georgia, Georgia Southern, Top Bunch, Vates

Cantaloupes & Honeydews – Athena, Ambrosia, Galia (green fresh)

Corn, sweet –

White: Silver Queen, How Sweet It Is, Sweet Ice

Yellow: Sweet Riser, Early Sunglow

Cucumbers –

Slicers: Sweet Success, Poinsett, Ashley, MarketMore 76, Straight Eight, Space Master

Picklers: Liberty Hybrid, Eureka, Boston Pickling

Eggplant – Black Beauty, Dusky, Long, Ichiban, Cloud Nine (white)

Mustard –

Southern Giant Curled, Florida Broad Leaf, Tendergreen, Giant Red, Green Wave, Mizuna

Okra – Clemson Spineless, Emerald, Annie Oakley II, Cajun Delight

Peas, Southern – California Blackeye No. 5, Pinkeye Purple Hull, Texas Cream

Peppers –

Bell: California Wonder, Red Knight, Big Bertha

Other Sweet: Sweet Banana, Giant Marconi, Mariachi, Cubanelle

Jalapeno: Early Jalapeno, Jalapeno M

Specialty Hot: Cherry Bomb, Hungarian Hot Wax, Big Chile II, Numex, Ancho, Thai, Anaheim Chile, Long Cayenne, Habanero, Caribbean Red Habanero

Potatoes, Sweet – Centennial, Beauregard, Vardaman

Pumpkin – Big Max, Connecticut Field, Prizewinner, Jack Be Little, Jack O Lantern

Squash –

Summer: Early Prolific Straightneck, Summer Crookneck, Early White Scallop

Winter: Spaghetti, Table King, Table Queen & Table Ace (Acorn), Waltham, Early Butternut

Zucchini: Cocozelle, Spineless Beauty, Black Beauty

Calabaza

Tomatoes –

Large Fruit: Celebrity, Heat Wave II, Better Boy, Beefmaster, BHN444-Southern Star*, Amelia*, BHN640*

Small Fruit: Sweet 100, Juliet, Red Grape, Sun Gold, Sugar Snack, Sweet Baby Girl

Heirloom: Green Zebra, Cherokee Purple, Eva Purple Ball, Brandywine, Mortgage Lifter, Delicious

*Resistant to TSWV (Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus)

Turnips –

Roots: Purple Top, White Globe

Roots & Greens: Purple Top

Greens: Seven Top, Shogoin

Watermelon –

Large: Jubilee (aka FL Giant), Crimson Sweet, Charleston Grey 133

Small: Sugar Baby, Mickeylee

***Other varieties may produce well also. Suggestions are based on availability, performance, and pest resistance.

Lawns & Gardens

Lawns:

- ◆ It's best to wait until the end of March or early April to fertilize the lawn, after the last late freeze has passed.
- ◆ A soil test will determine which nutrients your turf needs and in what amounts. If a soil test indicates that phosphorus is needed, you should apply a complete fertilizer (containing nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) such as 16-4-8, 13-3-13, or similar recommended analysis. Otherwise, a 15-0-15, or similar fertilizer can be used.
- ◆ 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 leaching and pollution from storm water runoff. Just don't get discouraged and re-apply when you don't see a response. Response time can range from 60-90 days depending on the percentage of slow-release nitrogen in the product.
- ◆ Get an early handle on those broadleaf weeds by hand pulling (as much as you can stand) and/or by spot treating with a three-way herbicide mixture such as Trimec, Ortho Weed-B-Gone, Spectracide Weed Stop or similar product. You may also use an atrazine product, except for on bahiagrass. Repeat applications spaced ten to fourteen days apart may be necessary.
- ◆ Have your mower blades sharpened this month in preparation of spring mowing. Dull blades make jagged, uneven cuts, creating a larger surface on the grass blade for water to be lost. The more water that is lost, the more drought stressed your lawn will become.
- ◆ Calibrate and check irrigation systems to make sure they are ready for spring. Check for leaks and make sure the heads are not spraying the driveway or street. To calibrate, place containers such as tuna cans, coffee cans, or rain gauges around the yard. Run the system for 15 minutes to see how much water is collected in the containers, then determine how long it would take to apply 1/2 to 3/4 inch of water to the landscape.



Gardens:

- ◆ Plant annual seeds early this month or purchase transplants to get a jump on the season. Just be sure you have a way to protect them from late frosts and freezes. Suggested annuals include ageratum, alyssum, African bush daisy, African daisy, amaranthus, asters, begonia, black-eyed Susan, calendula, chrysanthemum, cosmos, delphinium, dianthus, gazania, geranium, heliotrope, lobelia, snapdragon, sunflower, and torenia.
- ◆ Start planting perennials later this month such as agapanthus, blackberry lily, coreopsis, Echinacea, gaillardia (blanket flower), gaura, milkweed, pentas, plumbago, porterweed, shrimp plant, stokes' aster, and society garlic.
- ◆ Prune your azaleas, camellias, hydrangeas, and spirea after they finish blooming.
 - ◆ Plants that suffered a lot of winter damage will also need pruning to reshape the canopy. This is best done after new growth has begun. This will ensure that you are only trimming off dead tissue.
 - ◆ If you are planting containerized trees and shrubs, be sure to purchase healthy plants that are appropriate for the designated site. Consider planting low maintenance, drought tolerant species that will not require excessive watering during the spring drought.
- ◆ Be sure to group plants together based on watering needs. This will save you time and money, and make your plants happier.
- ◆ Fertilize spring flowering trees and shrubs after they finish blooming, if needed. Remember that any fertilizer you apply to your lawn is also used by your landscape plants since roots can extend far beyond the edge of the canopy.



A Day of Gardening

Saturday, March 14

9:00am to 3:00pm @ Duval County Extension Office

Topics include: Square Foot Gardening, Growing Orchids, Houseplants, Rain Barrels/Rain Gardens, Growing Tomatoes, Landscape Irrigation, Dealing with Nuisance Wildlife, Citrus, Native Plants, Hydroponic Vegetable Gardening, and Going Green with Landscapes

A variety of exhibitors and vendors will also be there.

Cost \$10

Deadline to register is March 10th

Call 904-387-8850 or email epankok@coj.net for more information.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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).



Don't forget to set your
clocks forward one hour on
Sunday, March 8th for
Daylight Savings Time.

2009 Master Gardener Plant Clinics

Let the Baker County Master Gardeners answer
your gardening questions!

Saturdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

March 7th — Glen Cash

March 14th — Ace Hardware

March 21st — Bennett's Feed

March 28th — Wal-Mart

April 4th — Spring Garden Fest

For more information, call 259-3520