



Highlights in

*Horticulture*

Baker County

November 2008

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Dear Extension Friends,

A big “thanks” goes out to everyone who purchased daffodil bulbs from the Master Gardeners. We appreciate your support!! Using only a small portion of the money that was raised, we now have two new demonstration gardens (a hydroponic lettuce garden and daffodil garden) here at the extension office to use as educational tools. Please feel free to stop by and take a look.

We also have some good programs taking place this month. Hope to see you there!

Best Regards,

*Alicia*

Alicia R. Lamborn  
Horticulture Extension Agent  
Baker County Extension Service

**Cold Weather Tips**

- If a freeze is predicted, water plants 24-48 hours before a freeze (unless it rains). Moist soil absorbs more heat which will help prevent cold damage.
- Cover cold sensitive or blooming bedding plants with pine straw or leaves for protection. Renew mulch in perennial flower beds to protect dormant crowns during hard freezes.
- Citrus fruit is damaged when temperatures stay at 28 degrees or less for 4 hours. Harvest ripe fruit prior to a freeze that is predicted to be this hard. Fruit won't ripen once picked. Bank clean sand around the graft union of young citrus to protect it from freezing.
- You can also group containerized plants to conserve heat; push together and cover pots with an old sheet, or move under a sheltering tree or eave where radiant heat will be trapped after dark.
- Using irrigation to water plant leaves for freeze protection is tricky since you have to start irrigating as soon as the temperature reaches 32 degrees and keep it on until thaw is complete. There is a danger of too much water since it may be on for days resulting in root problems. Also, there is a danger of breakage due to ice buildup on limbs. This method of cold protection is used commercially where it can be carefully controlled and is best left to them.

**Master Gardener To Graduate**

Congratulations to Tammy Finn!

Tammy has completed the ten week Master Gardener training course and will formally graduate at a ceremony on the University of Florida campus on November 5th.



Master Gardeners complete 50 hours of college level training covering numerous horticultural topics. They are then committed to volunteering 75 hours to the Extension office during a one year period, helping to educate others in the community.

# Lawns and Gardens

- Get busy planting winter annuals this month. While everything else is looking a little drab this winter, your annuals will create quite a display and be the highlight of the yard. Plant pansies, violas, petunias, dianthus, snapdragons, chrysanthemums, ornamental cabbage and kale, Shasta daisies, dusty miller, and delphinium.
- You may also plant bulbs and bulbous plants this month such as amaryllis, crinums, daylilies, narcissus, anemones, ranunculus, Dutch iris, and freesia.
- Citrus trees need minimal care this time of year and your biggest job is harvesting fruit. Fruit left on the tree too long may decline in quality and encourage rats. You won't need to fertilize again until February but remember to keep the soil moist (not wet) and free of weeds, grass, and mulch.
- Many of us start to notice what may appear to be problems on our trees, as the leaves begin to drop this time of year. Spanish moss, ball moss, and lichen are all commonly mistaken to be harmful in some way, although these organisms seldom need any attention at all. They do not kill or rob the trees of nutrients; they only need a place to live. For more information on lichen, visit our webpage <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu> and click on Fact Sheets.

The University of Florida's 2008-2009 Winter Trial will be planted in mid-November and remain in-ground through the 2009 Floriculture Field Days. However, you may stop by anytime and visit. The peak time to view the winter trial is from early March through mid-May.

Can't make the trip to Gainesville? Visit them through the web to get garden information, trial results, and see the award winners.



## Plant Spotlight:

## Eastern Redbud

## 'Forest Pansy' and 'Silver Cloud'

If you're a fan of the Eastern Redbud, then you may want to consider finding a place in the landscape for a 'Forest Pansy' or 'Silver Cloud'. These Redbud cultivars have strikingly colorful foliage and beautiful flowers. Leaves of the 'Forest Pansy' are a purple-red color, while 'Silver Cloud' has variegated foliage. Both are very attractive and will make a statement in your yard!



\*The use of trade names in this newsletter is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. It is not a guarantee of warranty of the products names and does not signify they are approved to the exclusion of others of suitable comparison.

# Building A Cold Frame

I know many of us garden enthusiasts have plants that do not tolerate cold temperatures in winter. And if you're like me, you're probably tired of hauling them inside every time a hard freeze comes. So this year, instead of breaking your back, build yourself a cold frame structure to house those precious plants until spring.

## Basic Structure: Quonset Design, 3' high x 6' wide x 20' long

### Materials Needed:

- 4 3/4" schedule 40 PVC pipe, 20' lengths
- 1 12' x 30' white copolymer film, 6 mil
- 32 3/4" electrical conduit hangers
- 1 2" x 8" x 12' treated lumber
- 4 2" x 8" x 10' treated lumber
- 4 Metal mending plates
- 1 200 ft. roll gauge steel wire (or heavy cord)
- 80 Wood screws

### Tools Required:

- Carpenter saw
- Electric drill
- Tape measure
- Builder's square
- Pencil
- Garden rake
- Side cutting pliers
- A friend



### Site Selection:

Choose a site for your structure that is fairly level with a water source nearby. The structure should also be oriented North-South (east-west orientation supplies more overall light, but north-south orientation supplies more uniform light).

### Construction:

- 1—Level an area 8' wide x 24' long.
- 2—Cut the 2" x 8" x 12' lumber in half, making two pieces 2" x 8" x 6' that will be used for the ends of the bed.
- 3—Butt the ends of two of the 2" x 8" x 10's together and nail/screw securely using mending plates on each side, so that you have a 2" x 8" x 20' side board.
- 4—Repeat step 3 using the remaining two pieces of 2" x 8" x 10's. The two sides of the bed (kickboards) are now assembled.
- 5—Lay kickboard sides on edge 6' apart on the leveled area and place a 2" x 8" x 6' section outside each end. Square the corners, then nail/screw together securely. (Screws will allow for easier breakdown, if required.)
- 6—At each of the four corners (on the inside edges), attach a conduit hanger using screws so that the top of the hanger is flush with the top edge of the boards. Any nails/screws that come through should be bent over so that they will not tear the copolymer cover.
- 7—Repeat step 6, attaching the bottom of the conduit hangers flush with the bottom of the boards.
- 8—Starting from the center of the top conduit hangers, mark off the kickboards along the length of the structure at 33 13/16 inch intervals.
- 9—At each of the marked intervals, center and screw in two conduit hangers (at top and bottom) as in Steps 6 and 7.
- 10—Cut the four 20' lengths of PVC pipe in half so that you have eight 10' pieces.
- 11—For each section of PVC pipe, slip one end down through a set of conduit hangers, bend the pipe in a bow across the width of the structure, and slip the other end of the pipe down through the opposite set of conduit hangers.
- 12—Place containerized materials inside the structure (more cold tolerant plants should be placed around the perimeter) and water thoroughly. An application of fungicide may be necessary after irrigation.
- 13—Using flexible wire or heavy cord, tie the bows of PVC pipe together so that they cannot flex to either side. An alternative is to use a single PVC 20' length centered at the top and attached to each bow to add greater rigidity to the frame.
- 14—Center the 12' x 30' sheet of white copolymer film over the hoop frame.
- 15—The cover can be secured by covering the 1' of surplus film along one of the long sides with soil. To allow easy access to the plants, the other three sides of the film can be held down with boards, rocks, or pieces of wood.

\*\*\*This structure will require venting. This can be done by opening the ends (or rolling up one side, as shown in the above photo) and then closing them down again later in the day. Depending on the plant material, closing the structure may only be necessary when temperatures fall below 32 degrees.

If properly constructed, the framework of your Quonset should last for years (white copolymer cover should last at least two years). Precautions should be taken to insure that nails and wire used in construction of the framework are properly bent and do not tear the cover (releasing heat trapped inside). Also, it is best to remove the cover when the Quonset is not in use. Carefully roll the cover up (do not fold) and store it out of direct sunlight. This will extend the life of the cover.

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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).

## Upcoming Programs & Events:

November 5th — **Selling to the Food Service Industry: Is it Right for Your Farm?** 9:15 to Noon at the North Florida Research and Education Center in Live Oak. Program is free; RSVP at 386-362-1725 ext 101 or email to [KHancock@ufl.edu](mailto:KHancock@ufl.edu) by Nov. 3rd at 5pm.

November 6th — **Agricultural Enterprise Workshops for North Florida** 8am to 2:15pm at the North Florida Research and Education Center in Live Oak. \$25 registration fee due by Nov. 3rd includes workshop materials, lunch, and refreshments. For information, call Karen Hancock at 386-362-1725, ext 101 or visit the website at <http://nfrec-sv.ifas.ufl.edu>.

November 15th — **Hobby Beekeeper Short Course** 8:45am to 4:15pm at the Clay County Agriculture Center in Green Cove Springs. Get hands on experience working with an active hive and take home a jar of local honey. Pre-registration and payment is requested by Nov. 12th (fee is \$10 or \$15 per couple). Call 904-284-6355 for more information.

November 19th — **Energy Wise Landscaping** 6pm to 7pm at the Baker County Extension Office (Agriculture Center). Learn about low energy landscape practices that reduce energy dependence and allow us to use less water, fertilizer, and pesticides. Program is free; RSVP at 904-259-3520 or email [alamborn@ufl.edu](mailto:alamborn@ufl.edu) by Nov. 14th at 5pm.

December 2nd — **Non-Traditional Gardening** 6pm to 7:30pm at the Baker County Extension Office (Agriculture Center). Learn about non-traditional gardening methods including water (hydroponic) gardening, square foot gardening, and more. \$3 registration fee due by Nov. 28th at 5pm includes program materials and a hydroponically grown head of lettuce. For more information call 904-259-3520 or email [alamborn@ufl.edu](mailto:alamborn@ufl.edu).

For Extension Programs offered around the state, see the IFAS Extension Web Calendar at <http://calendar.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar/index.htm>.