

Highlights in

Horticulture

Baker County

September 2007

Dear Extension Friends,

September signals the beginning of a new season for horticulturists even though the weather seems to stay the same! It's time to get your fall gardens planted, enter some plants in the fair, harvest the last of your grapes and pears, and keep the lawn in shape. (Whew!)

By the end of this month we can start to anticipate pecans and persimmons and maybe even some cooler temperatures. As always, I welcome your questions and comments.

Respectfully,

Barbara A. Smith

Baker county Extension Agent—Horticulture

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GROWING PERENNIALS: HERBS & DAFFODILS



New Program At the Extension Office
Saturday, Oct. 13 9 AM—NOON

GUEST SPEAKERS

- **Lei Lani Davis - Everything about Growing/ Using Herbs**
- **Linda Van Wyck-Daffodils for North FL**

**There will be demonstrations and plants to buy
Order daffodil bulbs in advance. Register by
Thursday, Oct 11th at 5 pm at 259-3520.**

Questions for Barbara:

Where can I find information about the Butterfly Fest coming up in October?

Just Google Butterfly Fest and you will get this site
<http://128.227.186.212/butterflyfest/>



Butterfly Fest, held in Gainesville, is three days packed with fun activities for butterfly lovers and butterfly gardeners of all ages!

Do you have a THING for WINGS?

CHILDREN IN THE GARDEN—VISIT THIS FUN WEBSITE

<http://www.monarchwatch.org/>

The Kansas Biological Survey, University of Kansas



Monarch Watch

Dedicated to Education, Conservation, & Research



You can help Monarch butterflies with their long journey south this Fall. Plant milkweed to feed monarch butterflies as they travel through our area to over-winter in Mexico.



HOT ITEM THIS MONTH

CUBAN TREE FROG HE'S A BAD BOY!!

Make a Treefrog Hangout from a 3 ft length of PVC pipe, stand upright in ground near house or shrubs. Check it often to see if you have this Bad Boy! He eats smaller native frogs.



LAWN—Still Mowing and mowing and mowing!!

Mowing may seem like the bane of your existence through the summer months, but it is actually one of the most important home lawn management practices. Follow these suggestions for a healthy, happy lawn:

- Never remove more than one third of the leaf blade at any one time. Removal of more than this can stress your lawn and leaves it susceptible to other problems.
- Mow at the highest height for your grass species. For St. Augustinegrass and bahiagrass, this is 3.5 to 4 inches. If you have St. Augustinegrass cultivars Delmar or Seville, mow at 2 to 2.5 inches. Mow centipedegrass at 1 to 2 inches.
- Leave grass clippings on the ground - they do not contribute to thatch and actually return a small amount of fertility back to the lawn.
- Keep your mower blades sharp - dull blades tear the leaf blades, making them look bad and leaving the lawn susceptible to insect or disease invasion.
- Don't mow your lawn when it's wet - this is dangerous for you, tough on the mower, and bad for the grass.
- If you miss a weekly mowing, raise the mower height so you don't remove too much tissue. Bring the height back down to the recommended level slowly.

*Source: excerpts from UF's Solutions for Your Life website. www.solutionsforyourlife.com. *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.



Gardening to Grow Food

VEGETABLES

Plant this month to keep the harvest coming this fall!



Cool season vegetables that can be planted all through September include green beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, collards, cucumbers, endive, lettuce, mustard, green onions, radish, summer squash and turnips. These vegetables will be ready for harvest before December.

Put Herbs in Everything, including the Landscape!!

Plant cool season herbs now like parsley, rosemary, and chives.

Put in your Butterfly Garden

Plants for larval food

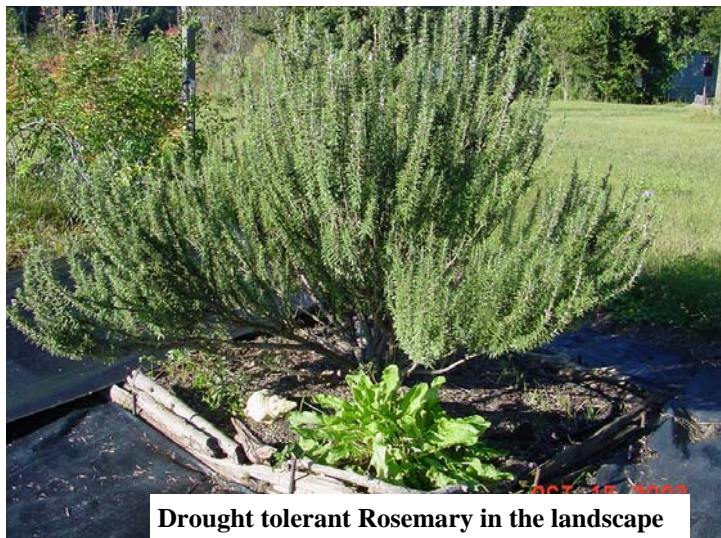
Parsley

Fennel

Plants for nectar

Echinacea

Mints



Drought tolerant Rosemary in the landscape

Plant for the Beneficial Insects

Plant herbs (basil) in and around vegetable garden to attract bees to pollinate

Herbs in the Umbelliferae family (dill, fennel, parsley) attract beneficial wasps

Lawn Caterpillars

Scout for lawn pests this month. Several different lawn caterpillars are active this month. Since caterpillars are the larval stage of a moth, you may spot the adult stage flying over your lawn at dusk or around outdoor lights at night. Ask us for extension publication ENY-352, *Lawn Caterpillars*, if you need help with identification. UF/IFAS Extension website, Your Florida Lawn, <http://yourfloralawn.ifas.ufl.edu/> has more.

The most damaging lawn caterpillar is the **tropical sod webworm**. The larvae are greenish with many black spots. Adults are dingy brown moths with a wingspread of about 3/4 inch. Injured grass has notches chewed along the sides of the blades, which are also eaten back unevenly. The foliage may be almost completely stripped off in patches, and these close-cropped areas soon become yellowish to brownish.



Webworms feed primarily at night and remain in a curled position on or near the soil surface during the day. This habit makes them difficult to find. Newly hatched caterpillars cause very little visible damage to grass. It is not until they are almost full grown, nearly 3/4 inch long, that their feeding becomes noticeable, and then it appears to show up almost overnight. This, along with their night feeding habit, explains how extensive damage may occur before it is noticed.

The soap flush technique is a good way to detect sod webworms. They may also be found by parting the grass and looking for the small green "worms" curled up on the soil surface and for small green pellets of grass or excrement. A flashlight used at night will reveal the caterpillars feeding in the grass foliage. If you find 10-20 webworm caterpillars per square foot, you may want to treat with Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*).

Cultural practices can influence turfgrass susceptibility to these caterpillar species. Turf can recover from damage if properly irrigated and kept healthy. Drought or low mowing heights may lessen chances of recovery. Bagging up grass clippings after mowing may reduce infestations since eggs are laid on leaf blades.

Application of water-soluble, inorganic nitrogen fertilizers causes rapid leaf growth, and increases the chance of caterpillar problems. Female moths that are ready to lay eggs are attracted to the succulent leaves. Using slow-release fertilizer may reduce your lawn's susceptibility to attack by caterpillars.

Lawn caterpillars, live in thatch, which is a layer of accumulated dead plant roots, stems, rhizomes, and stolons between the living plant and the soil. Over-watering or over-fertilization can cause turf to develop a thick thatch layer. Excessive thatch should be mechanically removed (vertical mowing, power raking, etc.) to minimize insect habitat and minimize binding of pesticides to organic matter.

Soap Flush Technique: 2 Tablespoons liquid dishwashing soap mixed with 2 gallons water. Pour mixture on 1 square yard of damaged grass, wait 5 minutes, then observe closely. If nothing emerges, examine several other areas.

GET YOUR PLANTS READY NOW FOR OUR COUNTY FAIR IN OCTOBER!

If you grow plants, you can enter them in the fair and win cash prizes. Keep your plants growing and healthy this month so they will be ready to show.

2007 Baker County Fair-October 5 –13

Horticulture

Superintendent: Dr. Kyle Brown and the Garden Club of Baker County

Chairperson: Cindy Jenkins

Competition is open to all growers of horticulture plants.

Exhibitors will be limited to 25 entries. Exhibitors may enter more than one entry in each class but not more than one of the same cultivar or variety.

Each entry must be labeled with common or botanical name if known. The show committee will assist with identification if needed.

All entries must be cleaned, groomed, and free from disease and insects. Failure to do so may disqualify the entry for judging.

All entries must have been grown by the exhibitor and in his or her possession for at least three months prior to the Fair.

Entries will be accepted on Tuesday, October 2nd from 9 am to 6 pm, and also on Wednesday, October 3rd from 9 am to 7 pm.

Plants will be judged Thursday, October 4th. No one but judges and clerks will be allowed in the exhibit area during the judging.

Decisions by the judges are final.

Exhibitors must pick up plants on Sunday, October 12, 2007 from 1 pm to 6 pm. Any plants left after that time will be donated to charity.

The Garden Club of Baker County and Master Gardeners will care for your plants.

All matters not covered by these rules will be decided by the show committee.

Premiums for Ribbons

Blue - \$3 Red - \$2 White \$1 Best of Section \$ Best of Show \$5

Horticulture Exhibit Guide for Entry Tags and Registration Book

Exhibitor Number – assigned in order of arrival of entries

Department – Horticulture (on entry tag only)

Division – Adult or Youth

Section A – Flowering/Fruiting Plants

Class 1 – Bromeliads

Class 2 – Orchids

Class 3 – Other

Section B – Foliage Plants

(plants grown for patio or indoor foliage)

Class 1 – All Entries

Section C – Special Display

Class 1 – Containers

Class 2 – Mounted

Section D – Bonsai

Class 1 – All Entries



Need help preparing your plants for the fair? Come to a prep session at the Extension office the afternoon before entries are due. Master Gardeners will show you how to get your plants “spiffed up and ready to show” !

Getting Spiffed Up and Ready to Show
Monday, October 1st at 4pm

Baker County Extension Service
1025 West Macclenny Avenue
Macclenny, FL 32063

Phone (904) 259-3520
Fax (904) 259-9034
Email: smithba@ufl.edu
Website: <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>

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Macclenny, FL 32063

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upon request, for individuals with documented print related disabilities, this publication is available in alternative format. Contact the Baker County Extension Service for more information. For individuals with disabilities requiring special accommodations, please contact the Baker County Extension Service at least 5 working days prior to the program in order for proper consideration to be given to the request. For TDD service, call the Florida Relay Service Center at 1-800-955-8771

Programming for September, October, and November 2007

September 5- **Why Should I Buy From You? The Good, The Bad, The Ugly**, North Florida REC-Suwannee Valley, Live Oak FL. For more information contact Linda Landrum at 386-362-1725 ext 105 or LLandrum@ufl.edu

September 6- **Florida Pecan Field Day**, Monticello FL. For more information contact Larry Halsey at 850-342-0187.

September 11- **Growing Growers Workshops Part #1**, Green Cove Springs FL. For more information contact David Nistler at 904-284-6355 or email to dnistler@ifas.ufl.edu.

September 15- **Alternative Farm Enterprise Conference**, Marianna FL. For more information contact Alex Bolques at 850-875-7255 or Charles Brasher at 850-482-9620.

September 18- **Growing Growers Workshops Part #2**, Green Cove Springs FL. For more information contact David Nistler at 904-284-6355 or email to dnistler@ifas.ufl.edu.

September 19- **Why Should I Buy From You? Cultivating and Keeping Loyal Customers**, North Florida REC-Suwannee Valley, Live Oak FL. For more information contact Linda Landrum at 386-362-1725 ext 105 or LLandrum@ufl.edu

September 28- Fall Field Day, North Florida REC, Quincy FL. For more information call 850-875-7100 x0.

October 1- **“Get Spiffed and Ready to Show”** - 4 pm at the Extension office 1025 W. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny- prepare your county fair entries with help from Baker County Master Gardeners. See page 5 for more information.

October 13 - **Growing Perennials: Herbs and Daffodils** 9am till noon ,at Baker County Extension , 1025 W. Macclenny Ave, Macclenny. Register by Thursday (Oct 11) at 5 pm. Call Lori or Cindy (904-259-3520) for more information. See this newsletter for info.

October 17- **Why Should I Buy From You?** Advertising Tools and Tips, North Florida REC-Suwannee Valley, Live Oak FL. For more information contact Linda Landrum at 386-362-1725 ext 105 or LLandrum@ufl.edu

November 14 - **Suwannee Valley Fall Workshops**, North Florida REC - Suwannee Valley, Live Oak FL.