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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).



COME GARDEN WITH US!!

UF/IFAS-Baker County Extension Service is now accepting applications for Master Gardener volunteers



The Master Gardener program is a national program of volunteers who are associated with the Extension Service. Trained Master Gardener volunteers help extend unbiased, research-based information about horticulture, from that state's land grant universities (University of Florida, in our case) to people in their county who need that information.

In Baker County, a Master Gardener might serve in one of the following roles:

- ◆ work with horticulture extension staff at the office
- ◆ assist horticulture agent with horticultural extension programs
- ◆ assist horticulture agent with yard visits to homeowners
- ◆ answer homeowner questions at plant clinics
- ◆ work with youth to plant and maintain school gardens
- ◆ plant and maintain demonstration gardens
- ◆ grow a flower crop in the extension greenhouse
- ◆ work at the extension fair booth at the Baker Co. Fair
- ◆ work with youth in the Jr. Master Gardener Program

This is a great volunteer opportunity for anyone who is interested in plants and is willing to learn more. We will teach you everything you ever wanted to know about plants and you will pay us back by volunteering in 2010 to do one or more of the jobs listed above.

Applications accepted until August 14th at 5 pm.

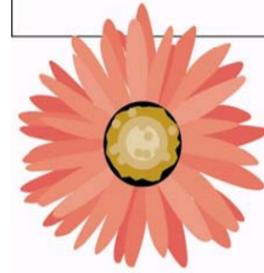
The classes are held from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm each Wednesday starting August 26th until mid November. The cost for the class and reference books is \$85.

Visit our website or stop by the extension office for an application packet or for more information.

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

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

IFAS EXTENSION



Highlights in

Horticulture

Baker County

Dear Extension Friends,

August 2009

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Summertime is not the most desirable time to be working in the garden but it is an important time for maintaining the lawn. Be sure to read up on your good lawn bugs (pg 2) and try to attend the Basic Lawn Care workshop this month (more classes and information below). We had a great turn-out for the Florida-Friendly Landscaping class in July and I hope to see more of you for future classes.

Best Regards,

Alicia

Alicia R. Lamborn
 Horticulture Extension Agent
 Baker County Extension Service

Upcoming Programs and Events: August

August 4th — **Florida-Friendly Landscape Plants** 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Baker County Extension Office (Agriculture Center). If you are having trouble deciding what to plant or if you're new to the area, this class is for you. Learn about Florida native, Florida-friendly, and under-utilized trees, shrubs, ground-covers and other plants that thrive in Baker County. This program is free; RSVP by calling 904-259-3520 or email alamborn@ufl.edu by Monday, August 3rd.



August 11th — **Basic Lawn Care Workshop** 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the Baker County Extension Office (Agriculture Center). Discover different grass types and lawn care techniques plus learn about proper watering and fertilizing. Also covered is basic pest management and disease problems. \$3 registration fee for materials and refreshments is due by Friday, August 7th at 5:00 pm.



August 20th — **Integrated Pest Management** 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the Baker County Extension Office (Agriculture Center). Save time and money by learning to identify helpful and harmful insects and how to manage pests in the landscape the environmentally friendly way. This class is free; RSVP by calling 904-259-3520 or email alamborn@ufl.edu by Tuesday, August 18th.



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Get To Know Your Good Lawn Bugs

Pyramid Ants

Pyramid ants are pale orange to dark brown and slender, reaching one-sixteenth to one-eighth inch in length. These ants are native to Florida, preying on other insects including fire ants. They do not sting or act aggressively but the most common complaint by homeowners is that their cone-shaped, crater-like nests fill in open areas of the yard. Many people commonly mistake these creatures for other types of ants, but one way to possibly tell them apart is by crushing one of the worker ants, which have a strong odor described by some as rotting coconuts. These ants will not invade your indoor living space and therefore chemical control is usually not necessary.



Big-Eyed Bug

Big-eyed bugs have small oval bodies, silver wings, and big bulging eyes. Adults can vary in color from black to brown, gray, or yellow and are one-sixteenth to one-eighth inch long. These insects prey on insect eggs, chinch bugs, small caterpillars and other soft-bodied insects. You may find them on plants or on the soil surface, where they are easily mistaken for chinch bugs. Chinch bugs however, have a more triangular shaped head and a longer, narrower body. Proper identification of these insects is important to eliminate the need for spraying which might otherwise result in the loss of money and beneficial insects.



Earwig

Earwigs are easily recognized by their long, slender brown bodies with pincher-like appendages at the tip of their abdomen. While they may look and sound scary, their pinchers can give only a slight pinch and are not harmful to people (they do not get into people's ears). Earwigs are scavengers, feeding on a variety of insects including chinch bugs and mole crickets. They are active at night, but can be found during the day hiding in cracks and crevices or under bark or mulch. Occasionally they enter buildings in search of food or shelter from bad weather conditions outside, while other times it is just by accident. A large indoor population indicates there are large numbers of earwigs outside. Removal of decaying vegetation around the home and maintaining mulch at two to three inches deep will help to control their population and keep them outside where they belong.



Larra Wasp

Larra wasps are black with a partially or totally red abdomen and silvery white markings on the head. Wings may be smoky brown to indigo blue in color. These wasps are solitary, with no community nest to guard and are not aggressive. They are parasitoid wasps, attacking only mole crickets (shown right) although each species of Larra wasp will only use particular mole cricket species as hosts. You are most likely to see male Larra wasps feeding on flowers from September to November perhaps because females spend much of their time hunting mole crickets. Once a female finds a mole cricket gallery, she chases one out, then pounces and wrestles with it in order to sting it on its soft underside. This sting will only paralyze it for a few minutes. As the mole cricket lies helpless, the wasp lays a single egg on its underside and then flies away. The mole cricket soon recovers and burrows back into the ground. The egg that was laid can hatch in as little as four days in summer and the larvae use their mandibles to feed off of the mole cricket as they grow larger. A fully grown wasp larvae will begin to pupate about twelve to thirty days later either among the remains of the dead host, or close to it, in the ground.



For more instruction on identifying helpful and harmful insects and pest management, check out page 1 for our upcoming classes on Integrated Pest Management and Basic Lawn Care. If you can't attend the class but need more information, you may access publications on <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> or call or visit our office for more personal assistance.

Troubleshooting Diseases of Flowering Plants

Fungal Leaf Spots

Alternaria leaf spot affects many species of plants including calendulas, dianthus, impatiens, marigolds, petunias, poinsettias, vincas, and zinnias. Symptoms include reddish brown or purple spots that are roughly circular with gray or tan centers that may eventually drop out leaving a hole. Severely affected leaves brown, dry, and become brittle. This is a seed-borne disease, so treating seeds can help delay the onset of symptoms. Development of this disease is favored by warm and wet conditions so reducing overhead watering will help control Alternaria leaf spot.



Alternaria leaf spot on zinnias.

Cercospora leaf spot can be found on coreopsis, pansies, zinnias and other species. Symptoms are similar to Alternaria having circular lesions that are tan to black or tan with dark borders. Mature lesions may have a white center. Again, warm moist conditions are optimal for this disease, with spores spreading by wind, rain, and splashing.



Cercospora leaf spot on rose.

Bacterial Leaf Spots

Xanthomonas & Pseudomonas are two types of bacteria that affect the leaves of plants and their symptoms are very similar in appearance. **Xanthomonas leaf spots** start as tiny water-soaked dots which can enlarge quickly to one-quarter inch or more. They usually form between leaf blades and dead areas can appear very black or tan, often with a distinct yellow or purple halo. Plants affected by this disease include cannas, coneflowers, crossandra, geranium, impatiens, shrimp plants, verbena, and zinnias. It is best to discard plants that have Xanthomonas since this disease can easily spread to other plants and is very difficult to control. In a few cases, keeping the foliage completely dry may be the only way of controlling this disease.



Xanthomonas leaf spot on begonia.

Pseudomonas leaf spot occurs more frequently in cool spring weather, but both diseases may occur at the same time. Symptoms start as water-soaked black lesions which run together as they enlarge. Mature spots are tan to brown and papery. This disease affects many annuals and perennials and once it becomes a problem in the landscape it returns each year. Control may be achieved by eliminating overhead watering as much as possible to reduce the chances of spreading the bacterium between plants.

Viruses

Virus symptoms can vary with the season and the plant. The most common are pale yellow mottled areas or line patterns. In some cases, infected plants have distorted growth. Viruses in the home landscape are typically spread through insects such as aphids or thrips, but can also be spread through propagation or when using infected tools on healthy plants. Since the only control for viruses is prevention, severely infected plants should be destroyed.

Virus symptoms on blackberry lily.



Rust

Rust is easy to identify because of the rust colored (yellow or orange) pustules which occur on the undersides of leaves that rub off easily when touched. The spots appear yellow from the upper surface of the leaf. In some cases, such as iris, rust is more reddish brown and found on both leaf surfaces. When severe, it causes yellowing and death of leaf tips. Remove and discard infected leaves to prevent spread.



Rust fungus on Canna.