

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

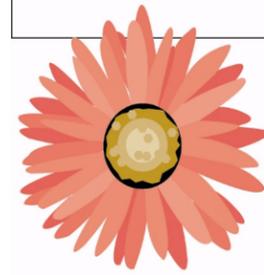
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IFAS EXTENSION



Highlights in

Horticulture

Baker County

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).

Starting a Successful Hydroponic Business

March 17th to 18th *OR* March 19th to 20th

Prospective and new growers interested in protected culture, hydroponics and products for local markets are encouraged to attend this in-depth training at the UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center of Suwannee Valley located in Live Oak.



Registration for classroom and greenhouse sessions is \$295 per person and optional greenhouse tour is \$50 per person. For more information or to receive a schedule and registration form, call 386-362-1725 ext. 101 or 104 or email khancock@ufl.edu or solus@ufl.edu.

20th Annual Tri-County Pesticide Update

Bradford County Fairgrounds, Building #3, Starke

Tuesday, February 16, 2010 @ 5pm



3.5 CEU's available (1.5 CORE + 2 Private/Ag. Row)

CALL YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE TO REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 12TH

**Baker County (904-259-3520)
 Bradford County (904-966-6224)
 Union County (386-496-2321)**

February 2010

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Dear Extension Friends,

I'm sure none of us were expecting such a prolonged period of cold weather last month but hopefully you and your plants faired the freezing temperatures. Of course, it could be spring time before we determine the true extent of the damage. Be sure to check out my tips on pruning freeze damaged plants (page 3).

We had a good turn-out for the tree and shrub pruning class last month. Don't be afraid to join us for classes in the future...bring a friend and come learn something new about gardening.

Best Regards,

Alicia

Alicia R. Lamborn
 Horticulture Extension Agent
 Baker County Extension Service

Upcoming Programs & Events: February & March

February 23rd — **Edible Landscaping** 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the Baker County Extension Office (Agriculture Center). Learn which fruit and vegetable varieties can be grown in the landscape to create a garden with good taste! Program is FREE; RSVP at 904-259-3520 or email alamborn@ufl.edu by Friday, February 19th at 5pm. Participants will receive free materials and edible flowers to plant at home.

February 24th — **Florida Organic Growers offers tour of North Florida blueberry farm**
 Farmers are invited to learn about organic production, marketing, regulations and certification during a free tour of a 9-acre blueberry farm in White Springs, FL from 1 pm to 4 pm on Feb. 24. To learn more contact FOG at 352-377-6345, email fog@foginfo.org; or visit www.foginfo.org/epa.

March 15th — **Lawn Care Workshop** 5:30pm to 7:00pm at the Baker County Extension Office (Agriculture Center). Learn the techniques for maintaining a healthy lawn all year long. \$2 registration fee for materials and refreshments is due by Friday, March 12th at 5 pm.



March 20th — **Rain Barrel Workshop** 10:00am to 11:00am at the Baker County Extension Office (Agriculture Center). Celebrate the first day of spring by installing a rain barrel that will save the rain for your plants and save you money! Learn how to build, install, and maintain a functional rain barrel for immediate use. All materials are provided for this "make and take" rain barrel workshop. \$35 fee for materials (per barrel) is due by Friday, March 5th at 5:00 pm. Already have your own barrel? Just call 259-3520 to register and join the class for free!



Ask Alicia: Roses

With so many people asking about roses recently, I thought it would be best to share their questions with you...

Question: What are the different types of roses and which ones are easiest to grow?

Answer: Success with roses in your landscape depends upon not only selecting varieties that perform well in Florida, but also choosing a type that conforms to your lifestyle. In general, roses are divided into two types: low-maintenance and high-maintenance. High-maintenance types include hybrid tea, grandiflora, floribunda and polyantha roses, all of which demand constant grooming, fertilizing, watering and spraying to perform well. If you don't have a lot of time to spend maintaining your roses, the low-maintenance roses are the way to go, since they thrive with minimal care. These include the "old garden" rose varieties such as 'Bourbon', 'China', 'Bermuda', 'Tea' (not hybrid tea), and "modern shrub" roses such as the increasingly popular "Knock-Out®" series.



Question: Can I grow roses if I do not have a location with full sun?

Answer: Roses need at least six hours of sunlight each day, but some will tolerate more shade. Choose an area that gets morning sun and choose a rose variety that produces flowers with a single row of petals (fewer petals indicate greater shade tolerance).

Question: Do all roses need to be grafted?

Answer: While hybrid roses should be grafted, many of the "old garden" roses, antique roses, dwarf cultivars and "modern shrub" roses perform well on their own roots.

Question: When is the best time to prune my roses and can I cut them back close to ground level?

Answer: Hybrid teas, grandifloras and floribundas should receive a major pruning in later winter (late February to early March), just before growth resumes in spring. Pruning consists of shortening main canes and lateral (side) branches, and removing parts that are dead, diseased, injured or spindly. This will improve form, increase air circulation and light penetration and control height. Leave at least half the length of each main cane that is one to three years old. Most gardeners also prune lightly in August, removing 1/4 to 1/3 of the growth. Other types of roses are pruned only as needed.

Question: What tips can you give on controlling black spot?

Answer: Black spot is a fungal disease that affects only roses but attacks nearly all rose cultivars, reducing the quality and life span of the plant. While leaves are the most susceptible part of the plant (pictured right) other parts are also affected. Yellowing around the lesions and defoliation can also occur on the most susceptible cultivars.



The first step to controlling this disease is planting resistant varieties. Certain species of roses and also rose cultivars of "old garden" roses are considered more resistant to black spot than "modern" roses, especially hybrid teas which are extremely susceptible. The second step has to do with irrigation. While this disease can be spread by rain from leaves or canes infected from the previous season, applying water to the base of the plant (instead of overhead) will help prevent it from spreading. If overhead watering cannot be avoided, plants should be watered in the morning to allow leaves to dry more quickly once the sun comes up. The third step is sanitation. This involves removing and burning fallen leaves and pruned canes late in winter before new shoots are produced. This will prevent the disease from over-wintering and infecting healthy tissue in spring. The last step involves chemical control, which should only be used as a last resort after employing the first three steps. The initial application of a fungicide should be made at bud break, followed by two applications per month until leaves are completely expanded. During rainy summer months, applications every 7-14 days may be necessary to successfully manage the disease. There are many fungicides labeled for the control of black spot on roses; a list may be found at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp268> or stop by our office to pick up a free copy of this publication titled *Black Spot of Roses*.

Tips for Freeze Damaged Plants

Although many of our landscape plants (especially perennials) are brown and dead-looking now, it is best to wait until spring before giving up on them just yet. You may find that some plants will surprise you, but only if you continue to take care of them through the winter by following these simple tips.

Woody shrubs :

Some evergreen shrubs now have burnt tips and browning leaves on them and while this isn't attractive, it is best to wait until spring before cutting these areas out. In many cases, the leaves have died but the tissue inside the stem is still alive, meaning it will re-grow new leaves in spring. Twigs that do not re-grow in spring may be cut out then, and waiting to do so will allow you to shape the shrub so the damage is less noticeable.

Ornamental grasses :

Many ornamental grasses are completely brown now which may tempt you to cut them down to the ground. However, this dead tissue actually works like a blanket, keeping the roots insulated on cold nights. Cutting it down to the ground now means you will need to help it stay insulated by piling leaves on top (or covering) but it is usually recommended that you wait until spring and cut them back as soon as you start to see new growth.

Perennials :

As with ornamental grasses, dead plant material in the canopy of the plant can help insulate the crown and roots when temperatures drop. Cutting back the top half of the canopy and placing the dead material around the base of the plant, along with leaves or pine straw will allow you to remove some of the brown and still keep the roots and crown alive through winter. This method should only be used on woody shrub-like perennials that re-grow from their roots each spring. Cut the dead material back completely once the plant starts to re-grow in spring.

Cycads and Palms :

Completely brown leaves and fronds of Sago and palm trees can be removed now, as these will not re-grow in spring. If the leaves still have some green on them, it is healthier for the plant to leave them for now since photosynthesis will still take place, making and storing additional energy needed to grow new leaves in spring.

Crabgrass Control in Lawns

Now is the time to control crabgrass and the trick to eliminating this weed is keeping your lawn healthy and preventing seed germination. This involves mowing at the recommended height for your species, removing lawn clippings when weed seed-heads are present, soil testing to determine the nutrient needs and lime requirements of your lawn, applying the proper amount of fertilizer for your species at the correct time of year, and applying pre-emergence herbicides before the crabgrass germinates.

There are five crabgrass species prevalent in Florida and seeds deposited in the ground during the last growing season will begin to sprout in early spring or once soil temperatures reach 50-55 degrees for 24 consecutive hours. In north Florida, soil temperatures typically reach this range around March 1st, but unseasonably warm weather will allow seeds to sprout sooner. Under warm winter conditions, or if your lawn has a history of crabgrass infestation, applying a pre-emergent herbicide in late winter to early spring (February 1st to March 1st) is recommended. A follow-up pre-emergent herbicide application must be made 60 days (or as directed on the product label) after the initial treatment to kill any new germinating seeds that were missed the first time. A pre-emergent herbicide applied before the crabgrass germinates is the most effective way to control this weed, since post-emergence control is limited and often consists of hand-pulling.

Pre-emergent herbicide options for controlling crabgrass in Bermuda, St. Augustine, Centipede and Bahia include the following active ingredients: benefin (Balan®), bensulide (Betasan®, Pre-San®, ProTurf Weedgrass Preventer®), dithiopyr (Dimension®) metolachlor (Pennant®), oryzalin (Surflan®), pendimethalin (Pre-M®, Turf Weedgrass Control®, Halts Crabgrass Preventer®) and prodiamine (Sam's Choice Crabgrass Preventer®). Most need to be watered-in to be effective. Always refer to the label for specific uses, instructions, application rates and turfgrass tolerance. The use of trade names (listed in parentheses above) 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.

