



Highlights in

Horticulture

Baker County

June 2011

Dear Extension Friends,

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Summer is officially here this month which means many gardeners will be spending a little less time in their gardens. But you can beat the summer heat by attending one of our many gardening classes. The Vegetable Garden Pest Management class was rescheduled for this month—this is the 2nd class in our Vegetable Gardening Series. The next class will be on Identifying Nutrient Deficiencies, followed by Alternative Gardening in the fall. If you would like to make a special request for future classes, please let us know! We want to hear from you!

Best Regards,

Alicia

Alicia R. Lamborn
Horticulture Extension Agent
Baker County Extension Service

Vegetable Garden Pest Management Class

Rescheduled for...

**Monday, June 13th
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

Baker County Extension Office



Dealing with pests in the vegetable garden is a gardener's toughest challenge!

Learn how to manage weeds, insects, diseases and nematodes in the vegetable garden to increase your harvest!



This class is free! Just call (904) 259-3520
to register by Thursday, June 9th.



Low Maintenance Roses for North Florida Landscapes

The University of Florida recently conducted a study whose goal was to develop recommendations of low maintenance shrub rose varieties for north, central, and south Florida. These are the results of that study.

Roses used in the study:

6 Modern Roses:

Knock Out
Home Run
Belinda's Dream
Carefree Beauty
Bailey Red
Perle d'Or

6 Old Garden Roses:

Louis Philippe—China
Old Blush—China
Mutabilis—China
Duchesse de Brabant—Tea
Mrs. B.R. Cant—Tea
Spice—Bermuda

- ◆ Roses were planted on their own roots (not grafted).
- ◆ Soil was amended and plants were mulched.
- ◆ Roses were watered during establishment and then only as needed.
- ◆ Roses were fertilized with a slow release fertilizer but no insecticides or fungicides were applied at any time during the study.
- ◆ Plants were rated each month based on visual plant quality and flowering.



North Florida Conclusions:

Best roses for long periods of flowers covering 50% or more of the plant canopy:

Knock Out Home Run

Best roses for long periods of acceptable plant quality:

Knock Out

Second tier roses for acceptable plant quality:

Home Run Mrs. B.R. Cant
Mutabilis Spice

Roses not recommended due to long periods of poor plant quality and unacceptable appearance:

Belinda's Dream Carefree Beauty
Old Blush Bailey Red

Notes:

- ◆ Louis Philippe was also expected to perform well, but was thrown out of the study due to a mix up.
- ◆ The study's focus was on roses for low maintenance landscapes. Other roses may perform well in N. FL if given additional inputs of water, fertilizer, and pesticides.

Now is the time to...

Prep Plants for the Fair

The horticulture exhibit at the Baker County Fair gives amateur gardeners a chance to show off their prize plants.



All types of plants are accepted and all qualified entries receive a ribbon and cash prize. It's easy to qualify, but now is the time to start preparing those plants to show.

To qualify:

- All plants must have been grown by you, and in your possession for at least three months prior to the fair. That means June is the last month to find a plant if you don't already have one.
- All plants must be free from disease and insects. Checking your plant each week will help you spot trouble and correct the problem early—



Other helpful tips:

- Remember to rotate your plant regularly. Unless plants are grown in full sun, they tend to turn toward the sun. Rotating the plant encourages it to fill out and look symmetrical, and will earn you a better ribbon!
- As you begin to select plants you want to show, consider showing multiple plants in each section or category. This will fatten your wallet even more and increase your chance of taking home a 'best of section' or 'best of show' ribbon.
- You may enter up to 25 plants, but not more than one of the same cultivar or variety of plant. Plan to enter at least one plant in each of the following categories: Flowering/Fruiting (African violets, orchids, etc.), Bonsai, Cacti/Succulents, Foliage Plants (ferns, bromeliads, begonias, etc.), Hanging Baskets (anything in a hanging basket), and Special Display (container garden, mounted, or topiary).



We need more youth entries!

Youth entries are judged separately from adults and there are many prizes to be won!

This is a great opportunity for the younger crowd to increase their interest in gardening while putting a little cash in their pocket!



Fruit Tree Calendar: June



The following fruit trees require attention this month. All fertilizer recommendations are for optimum growth of fruit trees. It is important to remember that you always have the option of applying less fertilizer, but the amount of fertilizer should not exceed these recommendations.

It's a busy month for fruit growers...

Apples: Fertilize this month using 10-10-10 with micronutrients, esp. Zinc and Boron; apply 1 pound (2 cups) of fertilizer for each year of age, up to 7.5 pounds.

Blueberries: *Year 1:* Fertilize using 1 ounce (2 Tbsp.) per plant of 12-4-8 with 2% magnesium (Mg). If plants are mulched heavily, use 1.5 ounces (3 Tbsp.) per plant per application rather than one ounce. Spread fertilizer evenly over a circle 2 feet in diameter with the plant in the center. *Year 2:* Fertilize using 2 ounces (1/4 cup) per plant of 12-4-8 with 2% magnesium (Mg). Spread fertilizer evenly over a circle 3 feet in diameter with the plant in the center. *Year 3+:* Fertilize using 3 ounces (< 1/2 cup) per plant of 12-4-8 with 2% magnesium (Mg). Spread fertilizer evenly over a 4 foot diameter circle, or broadcast in a continuous band 3 to 4 feet wide, centered on the plant row.



Figs: Pruning should occur only as needed and after fruit ripening (early in the summer) to allow for flower-bud initiation for the next year. For late-maturing cultivars, pruning may result in a significant reduction in yield the next year.

Muscadine Grapes (Year 1): Fertilize this month using 1/4 pound (1/2 cup) of 8-8-8 or 10-10-10; apply the fertilizer in bands about 1 foot to either side of the vine.

Pears: Apply 1/2 pound (1 cup) of 6-6-6 or 8-8-8 per year of age, up to 5 pounds total. Excessive fertilization should be avoided as it may make the tree more susceptible to fire blight.

Pecans (Newly Planted): A soil fertility test should be conducted prior to planting and no fertilizer should be placed in the planting hole during installation. *Year 1:* Fertilize early this month using 10-10-10 with micronutrients, 1 pound (2 cups) per tree. *Year 2:* Fertilize early this month using 10-10-10 with micronutrients, 2 pounds (4 cups) per tree. *Note: Fertilizer should contain Zinc (Zn) to prevent nutrient deficiencies. Do not apply fertilizer in a clump or directly against the trunk, instead spread out the fertilizer in a circle with a 3- to 5-foot diameter around the trunk of the tree.*

Pecans (Established): June 1st – submit leaf samples for nutrient testing; sample 25 leaflet pairs from fully expanded leaves in the mid-portion of the terminal growth.



Pecans (Established): Fertilize this month according to nutrient test results. Otherwise, use general recommendation: Fertilize using 10-10-10 with micronutrients, 2 pounds (4 cups) per inch trunk diameter, measured one foot above the soil (2-4 lbs for bearing trees). Large trees (30 inches or more in diameter) may require 60 to 120 pounds of fertilizer. *Note: Fertilizer should contain Zinc (Zn) to prevent nutrient deficiencies. Some growers prefer to bury fertilizer at 10 or more sites below the tree canopy to reduce runoff and increase fertilizer use efficiency compared to a broadcast application.*

Persimmons: Apply second of three applications of fertilizer; fertilize using 1/2 to 1 pound (1-2 cups) of 10-10-10 with micronutrients per year of age. All three applications should not exceed 10-15 pounds per year.

To access our Fruit & Nut Calendar, visit our website and look under 'Gardening Information'

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Lawns and Gardens

Lawns:

Mowing: Don't get behind on your mowing once the rain returns. Allowing the grass to get overgrown and then giving it a severe cutting can be very stressful to your lawn. In any case, never remove more than one third of the leaf blade at any one time. Mow at the highest recommended mowing height for your grass species, and if your grass seems stressed, increase the mowing height even further. Grass clippings act as a natural fertilizer when left on the ground, returning nutrients that can be used by the turf for new growth. If piles of grass form on the ground (caused by infrequent mowing) then raking and removing the grass is acceptable to reduce thatch and disease problems. Just be sure to recycle the clippings on site by using them as mulch or adding them to the compost pile.

Fertilizing: Sometimes turfgrass begins to turn yellow during the summer because of lack of nitrogen fertilizer. However, fertilizing with nitrogen in summer is not recommended since this encourages excess growth, disease and insect problems. However, if you would like to green up the lawn during summer, you can apply an iron source such as iron sulfate (2 ounces per 3-5 gallons of water per 1000 square feet) or a chelated iron source. The effect is only temporary (two to four weeks) so repeat applications are necessary for summer-long color, but you can green up your lawn without the added mowing.

Gardens:

Planting: Planting during summer is sometimes better than planting in spring. While it is much hotter, regular summer rains will help you get plants established without using much supplemental irrigation.

Palms: Be on the look-out for nutrient deficiencies in palms during summer and begin correcting them immediately. Established palms should be fertilized with an 8-2-12-4 Mg with equal amounts of N, K, and Mg in controlled-release form. Any fertilizer applied should also contain 1-2 % iron and manganese, plus trace amounts of zinc, copper, and boron, to prevent deadly micro-nutrient deficiencies.



Does the curb in front of your house look like this after you mow?

Lawn clippings left on hard surfaces contribute to nutrient pollution in our lakes, rivers, streams and oceans, causing fish kills and other problems.

Please remember to sweep or blow those clippings back onto the lawn or better yet, avoid putting them there in the first place by facing the mower away from hard surfaces.

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

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).