

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

Phone (904) 259-3520
Fax (904) 259-9034

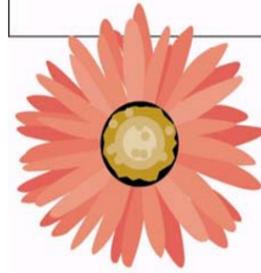
Email: alamborn@ufl.edu
Website: <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>

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Highlights in

Horticulture

Baker County

September 2009

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Dear Extension Friends,

At this point, I'm sure most of us are looking forward to fall, a time when we can take a break from the heat and start fresh planting our fall vegetable gardens. If you're not sure what to plant or how to plant it, check out the Fall Vegetable Planting Guide on page 3. If you find yourself with extra home grown produce, consider donating to the local food bank (904-305-2131) which helps families in need. As always, don't hesitate to give us a call or stop by for a visit if you have gardening questions!

Best Regards,

Alicia

Alicia R. Lamborn
Horticulture Extension Agent
Baker County Extension Service

Fall Webworms

In the last few weeks, I've noticed the first tents from the fall webworm starting to appear in our trees throughout the county. Fall webworm caterpillars are known to feed on a wide variety of tree species, and while they very rarely kill trees, they do make them aesthetically detracting by defoliating branches and creating large, unsightly webs (see below).

Newly hatched caterpillars immediately spin a silken web around the foliage on which they feed, which gets larger and encloses more foliage as they grow. These caterpillars live and move in groups within the web until they are almost ready to pupate. Once mature, they leave the web and feed individually before dropping to the ground to pupate on or in the soil.

Though the webs are unattractive, damage to most trees is considered to be insignificant. However, extreme infestations can cause branch dieback and may reduce nut production on pecans. In these situations, control measures may be justified. One control method is simply to prune out the infested branches as soon as you notice the tents. This may be practical if the webs are still small and pruning will not affect the aesthetic quality of the tree. Another option is to spray the leaves just outside the existing tent with a bacterium called *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). When the caterpillars expand their tent, they will feed on the bacteria-infected leaves which will cause them to stop eating and eventually die. Of course, there is a third control option - let nature do the work. Birds, assassin bugs, wasps and other predators feed on or parasitize the fall webworm. I know some people like to "help out" mother nature by breaking open the tents using a garden hose, which may help expose the caterpillars to these predators. However, if for some reason there are a lack of predators in your area, you may end up exposing more of your tree to these voracious eaters instead of having the damage concentrated at the branch tips.

If you have questions regarding fall webworms or anything discussed in this article, please contact the Baker County Extension office for more information.



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).

HORTICULTURE AT THE FAIR

*Get Your Plants Ready For The
2009 Baker County Fair, October 2nd—10th*

Horticulture Exhibit Guide for Entry

Section A – Flowering/Fruiting Plants

- Class 1 – African Violets
- Class 2 – Orchids
- Class 3 – Other

Section B – Foliage Plants

- Class 1 – Ferns
- Class 2 – Bromeliads
- Class 3 – Aroids
- Class 4 – Palms
- Class 5 – Begonias
- Class 6 – Other

Section C – Special Display

- Class 1 – Container Gardens
- Class 2 – Mounted
- Class 3 – Topiary

Section D - Bonsai

- Class 1 – All Entries

Section E – Cacti & Succulents

- Class 1 – Cacti
- Class 2 – Succulents
- Class 3 – Euphorbia

Section F – Hanging Baskets

- Class 1 – Flowering/Fruiting
- Class 2 – Ferns
- Class 3 – Cacti & Succulents
- Class 4 – Other Foliage

**Section G – Any entry that
does not fit other sections**

Premiums for Ribbons

Blue - \$3 Red - \$2 White - \$1
Best of Class - \$3
Best of Section - \$4
Best of Show - \$5



Youth are encouraged to
enter plants as well!

Youth entries are judged separately from adults and there are many prizes to be won (up to \$15 just for one plant). This is a great opportunity for the younger crowd to increase their interest in gardening while putting a little cash in their pocket!

For a complete list of contest rules visit www.bakercountyfair.org.

Pests in the Landscape: Aphids & Sooty Mold



Aphids have soft pear-shaped bodies (green, black, brown, yellow, orange, red or white in color) with piercing mouthparts used to suck the juices from plants. Aphids are different from most other insects in that almost all are female that rapidly reproduce without mating and they give birth to living young instead of laying eggs. Aphids can quickly reduce the aesthetic quality of plants, creating an environment for black sooty mold to grow and even transmitting plant viruses.

You may be able to mechanically control these insects when they are found in small numbers just by spraying them off forcefully with the garden hose. However, aphid populations seem to be particularly bad this year and therefore, spraying them with an insecticidal soap or lightweight horticultural oil, such as neem oil, is probably justified. You can also try a homemade solution of soapy water by adding two tablespoons of dishwashing liquid (do not use those containing a degreaser or an automatic dishwashing soap or detergent) per gallon of water. Just be sure to treat all parts of the plant, including the undersides of the leaves, and retreat at weekly intervals as necessary or as the product label directs.

In some cases, you may not notice an aphid infestation until a black sooty mold begins to cover the leaves of the plant. Sooty mold grows on a substance called honeydew which is excreted from aphids and other insects including whiteflies, soft scales and mealybugs. Once you eradicate the insects that are feeding on your plants, the sooty mold will start to disappear. Ants are another sign of insect infestation and can be seen traveling up and down the plant in search of the honeydew which they use as food.

Checking your plants weekly for insects is recommended. (Check the undersides of the leaves too!) This will allow you to spot treat as needed, preventing severe insect infestations and the highly unattractive black sooty mold. To some this may seem like a hassle, but it is far easier than trying to control large outbreaks.

Aphids that have a small hole in a bloated-looking body have been parasitized by tiny wasps (pictured below). If predators are present (ladybug adults and larvae, assassin bugs, ambush bugs, lacewing larvae) or the pests show signs of parasitism, every effort should be made to preserve these beneficial insects. Delay applying a pesticide until damage appears, and give the beneficial insects an opportunity to control the aphids.



Healthy (yellow) and parasitized (brown/swollen) oleander aphids.



Daffodil Sale

The Baker County Master Gardeners will be selling daffodil bulbs starting in October to raise money for their program.



The money will be used to fund future Master Gardener projects including educational demonstrations, demonstration gardens and gardening in the classroom.

We will have **8** varieties available for purchase, several of which performed very well in our daffodil demonstration garden last season:

- ◆ Pipet (light yellow with white cup; blooms March)
- ◆ Nony (white with yellow cup; blooms January)
- ◆ Erilcheer (double white; blooms February)
- ◆ Soleil D'or (yellow with orange/red cup; blooms Jan.)
- ◆ Chinese Sacred Lily (white with yellow/orange cup; blooms late Dec—Jan)

New This Year:

- ◆ Ceylon (bright yellow, orange cup with red rim; blooms Feb.)
- ◆ Grand Primo (white with creamy yellow cup; blooms March)
- ◆ Gigantic Star (large, all yellow; blooms January)

Additional order forms are available on our website!

September Lawn Fertilization

Most lawns can be fertilized this month using a complete fertilizer (containing nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) such as 16-4-8, 13-3-13, or similar product. However, in many areas, phosphorus is not needed (a soil test through the extension office will determine this) and a 15-0-15, or similar fertilizer can be used.

Fertilizers should be applied at a rate determined by the type and amount of nitrogen present in the material. When applying a soluble (quick-release) fertilizer, it is recommended that you apply no more than one-half of a pound of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet. If you apply a controlled or slow-release product, then you may apply up to one pound of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet.

The pounds of fertilizer equal to one pound of actual nitrogen (N) can be calculated for any fertilizer bag using the following formula:

$$1 \text{ lb. N} = 100 \div \text{N} = \text{lbs of fertilizer per 1000 sq ft of lawn}$$

For example, a slow release 15-0-15 fertilizer equates to:

$$1 \text{ lb. N} = 100 \div 15 = 6.6 \text{ lbs of fertilizer per 1000 sq ft}$$

If this product were quick release, we could only apply half this amount or 3.3 lbs of fertilizer per 1000 sq ft.

If all this math is confusing, be sure to check out the new fact sheet on our webpage called *Fertilizer Rates for Lawns and Landscapes*. In it, we provide a handy chart that virtually eliminates the need to do these math calculations.

Applying the correct amount of fertilizer will save you money, keep your lawn healthy, and help reduce nutrient pollution.



The Edible Garden – Fall Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Varieties	North Florida Planting Dates	Days to Harvest (from seed)	Row Spacing (in)	Plant Spacing (in)	Seed Depth (in)
Beets	Tall Top, Early Wonder, Detroit Dark Red, Cylindra, Red Ace, Yellow Detroit	Sept—Mar	50-65	14-24	3-5	1/2 - 1
Broccoli	Early Green, Early Dividend, Green Sprouting/Calabrese, Waltham, Packman, DeCicco, Broccoli Raab (Rapini)	Aug—Feb	75-90	30-36	12-18	1/2 - 1
Cabbage	Red Acre, Savoy, Rio Verde, Flat Dutch, Round Dutch, Wakefield types, Copenhagen Market	Sept—Feb	90-110	24-36	12-24	1/2 - 1
Carrots	Imperator, Nantes, Danvers, Chantenay	Sept—Mar	65-80	16-24	1-3	1/2
Cauliflower	Snowball Strains, Snow Crown, Brocoverde	Aug-Oct	75-90	24-30	18-24	1/2 - 1
Chinese Cabbage	Michihili, Bok Choy, Napa, Baby Bok Choy, Pak-choi, Joi Choi	Oct—Feb	70-90	24-36	12-24	1/4 - 3/4
Collards	Georgia, Georgia Southern, Top Bunch, Vates	Aug—Nov	70-80	24-30	10-18	1/2 - 1
Endive/Escarole	Endive: Green Curled Ruffec Escarole: Batavian Broadleaf	Sept	80-95	18-24	8-12	1/2
Kale	Vates Dwarf Blue Curled, Tuscan, Winterbor, Redbor	Sept—Feb	—	24-30	12-18	1/2 - 1
Kohlrabi	Early White Vienna, Purple Vienna	Sept—Mar	70-80	24-30	3-5	1/2 - 1
Lettuce	Crisphead: Great Lakes Butterhead: Ermosa, Bibb, Tom Thumb, Buttercrunch Loose Leaf: Simpson types, Salad Bowl, Red Sails, New Red Fire Oak Leaf: Salad Bowl, Royal Oak Romaine: Parris Island Cos, Outredgeous	Sept—Oct	50-90	12-24	8-12	1/2
Mustard	Southern Giant Curled, Florida Broad Leaf, Tendergreen, Giant Red, Green Wave, Mizuna	Sept—May	40-60	14-24	1-6	1/2 - 1
Onions, bulbing	Granex (yellow)	Sept—Dec	120-160	12-24	4-6	1/2 - 1
Radish	Cherry Belle, White Icicle, Sparkler, Champion, Daikon	Sept—Mar	20-30	12-18	1-2	3/4
Spinach	Melody, Bloomsdale Longstanding, Tyee, Space	Oct—Nov	45-60	14-18	3-5	3/4
Strawberry	Camarosa, Sweet Charlie, Festival, Selva, Oso Grande, Chandler	Oct—Nov	90-110 (transplants)	36-40	10-14	—

For information on vegetable gardening, vegetable crops not listed above, planting dates for other parts of Florida and more, check out the *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide* at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VH021> or stop by the Baker County Extension Office for a free copy.

