Master Gardener Training Starts Soon!

We are 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 Baker County Master Gardener volunteers help extend unbiased, research-based horticultural information to people in our community 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 extension programs
- Provide assistance with yard visits to homeowners
- Answer homeowner questions at plant clinics
- Work with youth to plant and maintain school gardens
- Assist horticulture agent with yard visits to homeowners
- Grow a flower crop in the extension greenhouse
- Work with youth in the Jr. Master Gardener Program

This is a great opportunity for anyone who enjoys gardening and wants to volunteer for our community. We will teach you everything you ever wanted to know about gardening and you will pay us back by volunteering in 2011!

Applications accepted until July 16th at 5 pm.

Classes are held from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm each Wednesday starting August 4th until mid October. Just pay $55 for materials and the training itself is free!

The materials you will receive include a CD full of reference materials, The Florida Lawn Handbook (book), Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses (book), a hand lens (for identifying insects/diseases), and your Master Gardener name tag.

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

For Extension Programs offered around the state, see the IFAS Extension Web Calendar at http://calendar.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar/index.htm.
Many people with allergies blame plants for their misery (rightfully so), and summertime can be tough for hay fever sufferers. Hay fever is an allergic reaction that certain people have when they inhale pollen from specific plants. During summer, one of the most colorful plants we see blooming in roadside ditches is goldenrod (Solidago sp.), and since hay fever symptoms seem to be worse when it is in bloom, it is often blamed for causing hay fever. However, the true culprit is ragweed. Both plants bloom during the summer, but are actually quite different in many ways.

Ragweed produces masses of bright golden flowers on single-stemmed plants, and has relatively large, heavy pollen grains that are intended to be carried off by bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. Ragweed bares greenish yellow flowers in small heads which produce copious amounts of pollen, carried by the wind rather than insects for pollination. The flowers are not showy which means plants are easier to identify by their stems and leaves. Ragweed has branching purplish stems that are rough and hairy, and leaves which are smooth, but deeply divided into lobed portions (shown below).

Goldenrod, on the other hand, is a stemless, trailing plant with a taproot. It produces flowers in small heads that are smooth, but deeply divided into lobed portions (shown below). This is tough on the mower and bad for the grass. This photo, taken in Baker County, shows how tall ragweed can get (notice the mailbox on the right), but can actually reach 6 feet in height.

### Summer Pruning

**While most trees & shrubs should be pruned in late winter, there are some exceptions.**

Summer pruning should be completed this month on plants that flower on previous season’s wood. Some plants form flower buds during late summer and fall, overwinter on the plant, then break bud in spring to provide a beautiful display of color. Pruning these types of plants in late summer, fall, or winter (after the flower buds have already formed) will decrease or eliminate their display. Therefore, these plants should be pruned soon after flowering to prevent flower bud removal, but only as needed since not all plants require yearly pruning.

Some common plants that should be pruned after flowering include the following….

- Anise
- Azalea
- Banana Shrub
- Camellia
- Dogwood
- Forsythia
- Fringetree
- Holly
- Honeysuckle
- Hydrangea
- Indian Hawthorne
- Magnolia
- Mockorange
- Pear
- Quince
- Redbud
- Spirea
- Sweet Shrub
- Sweetspire
- Viburnum
- Forsythia
- Fringetree
- Holly
- Honeysuckle
- Hydrangea
- Indian Hawthorne
- Magnolia
- Mockorange
- Pear
- Quince
- Redbud
- Spirea
- Sweet Shrub
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- Viburnum

This article includes excerpts from Homeowner Best Management Practices for the Home Lawn by Laurie Trenholm, located at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep236.