

Highlights in

Horticulture

Baker County

September 2011

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Dear Extension Friends,

Fall will officially be here on September 23rd, and for many of us it can't come soon enough. Let's just hope the cooler weather arrives earlier than it did last year, giving our fall gardens a chance to grow!

Best Regards,

Alicia

Alicia R. Lamborn
Horticulture Extension Agent
Baker County Extension Service



Master Gardeners...at your service!

The Baker County Master Gardeners are making big plans for fall that include an open house and strawberry festival!

Fall is the perfect time for planting strawberries and the Master Gardeners want to teach you to be successful at growing your own!

They'll even teach you how to grow strawberries with limited space, using grow boxes, hanging baskets, grow bags, and even how to build your own strawberry barrel that yields up to 30 pints!

Strawberry plants will also be for sale at an extremely affordable price...

Bundles of 10 plants for only \$5

Bundles of 50 plants for only \$20

You can even pre-order your plants now by calling 259-3520 for pick up in October (more details to come in next month's issue).

Show Off Your Green Thumb at the Fair

Gardeners of all ages, both amateur and experienced are invited to show off their plants at this year's fair! Never shown your plants before? There has never been a better time to start! All qualified entries will receive a ribbon and cash prize! It's easy to qualify, just follow the rules for entry.

RULES:

- Competition is open to all growers of horticulture plants.
- Exhibitors will be limited to 25 entries. Exhibitors may enter more than one entry in each section, but not more than one of the same cultivar or variety.
- Each entry must be labeled with common or botanical name, if known. The show committee will assist with identification if needed.
- All plants and containers should be clean and groomed. Any plant with obvious signs of disease or insects will be disqualified from judging.
- All entries must have been grown by the exhibitor and in his or her possession for at least three months prior to the Fair.
- Entries will be accepted on Tuesday, September 27 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Wednesday, September 28 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
- Plants will be judged Thursday, September 29. No one but judges and clerks will be allowed in the exhibit area during the judging. Decisions by the judges are final.
- Each exhibitor will receive a single, one-day entry pass to visit the horticulture booth and view the plants on display.
- Exhibitors must pick up plants on Sunday, October 9 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Any plants left after that time will be donated to charity and premium money will be forfeited.
- The Baker County Master Gardeners will care for your plants while on display.
- All matters not covered by these rules will be decided by the superintendent.

Youth Entries Needed!

Youth entries are judged separate 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!



Premiums for Ribbons: Blue \$3 – Red \$2 – White \$1 – Award of Merit \$5 – Best of Show \$10



HORTICULTURE EXHIBIT GUIDE

Section A – Flowering/Fruiting Plants

Plants must have flowers or fruit.



Section B – Foliage Plants

Plants grown for foliage: variegated, colored and/or green, tropical or landscape, without flowers or fruit.



Section C – Special Display

Container gardens, wire framed, topiaries, terrariums, totems, mounted, etc.



Section D – Bonsai

All sizes and styles, in pots, on trays or racks.



Section E – Cacti & Succulents

Cactus, succulents, Euphorbias



Section F – Hanging Baskets

All hanging plants regardless of size, including wood mounts that are meant to hang.

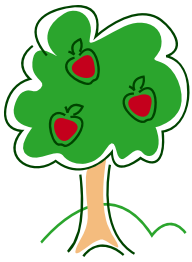


Section G – Patio Plants

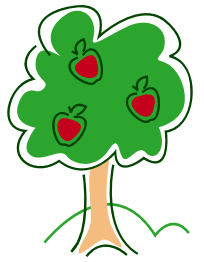
All containers 14" or larger that are not hanging.



2011 Baker County Fair, September 30th—October 8th



Fruit Tree Calendar: September



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.

Citrus: Last month to fertilize young citrus (1 and 2 year old trees) until February. Refer to the table (shown right) for fertilizer recommendations.

| Tree Age | Cups of Fertilizer per Application | | | Applications per year |
|----------|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | 6-6-6 | 8-8-8 | 10-10-10 | |
| 1 | .5-1.5 cups | .5-1.25 cups | | 6 |
| 2 | 2-4 cups | 1.5-3 cups | | 5 |
| 3 | 3.5-7 cups | 2.75-5.5 cups | | 4 |
| 4 | 8.5-11.25 cups | 6.5-8.25 cups | 5.25-6.5 cups | 3 |
| 5+ | 12-15.5 cups | 9-11.5 cups | 7.25-9.25 cups | 3 |

Loquats: Fertilize this month using 6-6-6, only as needed.

Persimmons: Mid-season cultivars are ready to harvest this month. In general, crops can remain on the tree a month after marketable color develops, becoming softer with greater colors and sugar.

Persimmons: Apply last of three applications of fertilizer early this month; 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 (20-30 cups) per year and therefore no more than 10 cups per application.

Pineapple Guava: Fruit ripens this month and is ready for harvest.

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

Species Spotlight: The Pagoda Flower

By: Mary Ann Ray, Baker County Master Gardener

The Pagoda flower (*Clerodendron paniculatum*) adds a tropical feel to North Florida landscapes with its large leaves (can be as large as 12 inches across) and showy clusters of orange-red or scarlet flowers held above the foliage.

A native to India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and much of southeastern Asia, it is widely cultivated in tropical gardens throughout the world. The Pagoda flower is a returning perennial in zones 8B-9 (Baker County is USDA Hardiness Zone 8B) and can be expected to sprout back in spring after dying to the ground in winter. (For added protection, plant it near a south facing wall.) It does best planted in rich, slightly moist soil and full sun but will also tolerate partial shade.

The Pagoda flower is just as beautiful when it's not flowering, and is often used in mixed gardens or along a wall. This bush sometimes has multiple stems growing to 3-5 feet tall and spreading 2-3 feet across. The leaves have heart shaped bases with lobed lower leaves and entire upper leaves (not lobed with smooth edges). The flowers are funnel shaped with long protruding red stamens, and are tiered in a pyramid shape, much like an oriental pagoda. The showy display lasts from summer through autumn.



Baker County Extension Service

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Ask Alicia: Your Gardening Questions Answered

Q: What is the length of time to leave Amaryllis bulbs out of the ground after you dig them up?

A: Amaryllis bulbs do not require digging and storage to bloom like some other bulbs, but can be forced to bloom using this technique. The bulbs may be left in the ground for several years or dug and reset (in the same day) every September or October. It is not necessary to dig, separate, and replant each year, but doing so will encourage uniform flowering and larger blooms. Digging also provides an opportunity to discard unhealthy bulbs, to remove young offsets (bulblets) and to amend the bed with organic matter. Growers that wish to force their amaryllis to bloom indoors during late winter, must induce a dormant period by digging the plants in fall and placing them in a dry, shaded area for 6-8 weeks. Remove declining foliage, replant, and provide normal care.

For more information on amaryllis care, visit <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep060> or stop by our office.



Q: What are these bugs all over my tomato plants and what I can do about them?

A: The bugs you are seeing are a type of blister beetle, called the margined blister beetle. They are pests of vegetables, eating the leaves and sometimes flowers of tomato, eggplant, potato, beets and a few others. They are called blister beetles because they can actually produce large blisters when pressed or rubbed against human skin. These blisters are not painful but are uncomfortable and can be quite alarming. Unless extensive, medical treatment beyond first aid is probably not necessary and the blisters will go away eventually. Since most vegetable plants can stand a 10-20 percent loss of leaves without loss of yields, gardeners may choose to hand pick these pests (using protective gloves) and place them in soapy water. If present in large numbers and damage is extensive, spraying with pyrethroids (active ingredients to look for include lambda-cyhalothrin, bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, esfenvalerate, and the combination of pyrethrins + piperonyl butoxide) may be justified. However, it is important that the product be labeled for vegetables (not just lawn and ornamental pests) and spraying should take place in late afternoon or evening to avoid killing bees also. For more info, visit: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in323>



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).