

Central Florida Gardening Calendar¹

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January

What to Plant

Bedding plants: Plants that can be added to the garden during the coolest months include dianthus, pansy, petunia, viola, and snapdragon. **See:** *Gardening with Annuals in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg319>)

Bulbs: Crinum, agapanthus, and gloriosa lily bulbs can be planted now. Provide a layer of mulch to protect from cold temperatures. **See:** *Bulbs for Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg029>)

Camellias: Select and plant camellias this month. Visit local nurseries now for the best selection of colors and forms. **See:** *Camellias at a Glance* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep002>)

Vegetables: Continue planting cool-season crops, including beet, cabbage, turnip, lettuce, potato, and broccoli. **See:** *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>)

What to Do

Deciduous fruit: Plant deciduous fruit trees now to give their roots time to develop before the warm, dry spring months. Prune and fertilize existing trees. **See:** *Deciduous Fruit for the Home Garden in Central Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg366>)

Cold protection: Be ready to cover tender plants to minimize damage and be sure covers extend all the way to

the ground. Frost or freezes are likely this month and next. **See:** *Cold Protection of Ornamental Plants* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg025>)



Figure 1. Camellia
Credits: UF/IFAS

Irrigation: Irrigate lawns and landscape plants minimally. This is their dormant season. **See:** *Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep110>)

Shrubs and trees: Prune non-spring flowering shrubs and trees this month to improve form. **See:** *Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg087>)

Arbor Day: Celebrate Florida Arbor Day (the third Friday of January) by planting a tree in your yard or community.

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See: Arbor Day Foundation - Florida (<http://www.arborday.org/states/index.cfm?state=FL>)

Crapemyrtle: Remove seed pods, crossing branches, and small twiggy growth to improve the appearance and form of the plant, if desired. Hard pruning is not required. **See:** *Crapemyrtle in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg266>)

Pests: Apply horticultural oil to citrus, shrubs, camellias, and deciduous fruit trees while plants are dormant to control scale. **See:** *Landscape Integrated Pest Management* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in109>)

February

What to Plant

Bedding plants: Plants that perform better in the cooler months include petunia, pansy, verbena, dianthus, strawflower, and lobelia. Protect from frosts and freezing temperatures. **See:** *Gardening with Annuals in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg319>)

Bulbs: Many bulbs can be planted now. Provide adequate water for establishment and protect from cold weather with mulch. Some to try include Amazon lily, crinum, and agapanthus. **See:** *Bulbs for Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg029>)

Azaleas: With azaleas in full bloom this month, now is a great time to select varieties to add to the landscape. **See:** *Azaleas at a Glance* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg019>)

Vegetables: Begin planting warm-season crops this month. Bean, pepper, cucumber, tomato, and squash can be started while temperatures are cool. **See:** *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>)

What to Do

Palms: Give cold-damaged palms proper care to encourage their recovery. **See:** *Cold Damage on Palms* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg318>)

Citrus: Check citrus trees for scab disease. Apply a copper fungicide when new leaves appear and again when two-thirds of the flower blossoms have fallen. **See:** *Citrus Problems in the Home Landscape* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs141>)

Roses: Prune roses this month to remove damaged canes and improve the overall form. After pruning, fertilize and apply a fresh layer of mulch. Blooming will begin 8–9 weeks

after pruning. **See:** *Growing Roses in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep339>)



Figure 2. Rose
Credits: UF/IFAS Photo by Eric Zamora

Shrubs: Fertilize shrubs by spreading fertilizer evenly over the soil surface and watering it in. Follow with a fresh layer of mulch to conserve moisture and reduce weeds. **See:** *Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep110>) and *Planting Shrubs in the Florida Landscape* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep390>)

Lawn: Apply a preemergent weed killer (not a “weed and feed”) to lawns this month to prevent germination of warm-season weed seeds. Apply when temperatures rise to 65°F for 4–5 days. Timing is important for good control. **See:** *Weed Management in Home Lawns* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep141>)

Citrus and other fruit trees: Fertilize now if not done in January. Frequency and amount of fertilization depend on the age of the tree. **See:** *Citrus Culture in the Home Landscape* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs132>) and *Deciduous Fruit for the Home Garden in Central Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg366>)

March

What to Plant

Annuals: Replace declining winter annuals with varieties such as angelonia, gazania, and salvia that will provide color now and into the summer months. **See:** *Gardening with Annuals in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg319>)



Figure 3. Caladium

Credits: UF/IFAS Photo by Tyler Jones

Bulbs: Plant caladium for a showy tropical display all summer. **See:** *Bulbs for Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg029>)

Herbs: In addition to their culinary value, many herbs are ornamental and attract butterflies to the garden. **See:** *Herbs in the Florida Garden* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh020>)

Vegetables: Warm-season crops, such as cucumber, egg-plant, and summer squash, can be planted now. **See:** *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>)

What to Do

Azaleas: Prune azaleas just after plants finish blooming to shape or produce a fuller plant. **See:** *Azaleas at a Glance* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg019>)

Shrubs and trees: Prune when new growth begins after the end of the dormant season. To guard next season's blooms, begin pruning after the last flowers fade but before the new buds set. **See:** *Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg087>)

Palms and shrubs: Fertilize palms (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep359>) and any other ornamentals not fertilized last month. **See:** *Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep110>), *Soil Test Information Sheet* (http://soilslab.ifas.ufl.edu/ESTL_files/SS18700.pdf), and *Fertilization of Field-grown and Landscape Palms in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep261>)

Irrigation: Check sprinkler systems for efficient water use. **See:** *How to Calibrate Your Sprinkler System* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh026>)

April

What to Plant

Annuals: New varieties of coleus do well in sun or shade and provide vivid colors and patterns for months. **See:** *Gardening with Annuals in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg319>)

Bulbs: Planting early-, mid-, and late-blooming varieties of daylily (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep006>) ensures months of color from these low-maintenance plants. **See:** *Bulbs for Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg029>)

Herbs: Add nasturtiums to your herb garden. The leaves and flowers add a peppery zest to salads. **See:** *Nasturtium, Garden - Tropaeolum majus L.* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mv099>)

Vegetables: Continue planting warm-season crops, such as beans, cantaloupe, and okra. Mulch well to prevent weeds, and provide water if the weather has been dry. **See:** *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>)

What to Do

Pests: Monitor landscape plants weekly for aphids on tender new growth. **See:** *Ornamental Insects Sheet 2* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in024>) and *Landscape Integrated Pest Management* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in109>)

Beneficials: Identify and conserve beneficial insects. Some insects should be encouraged in your yard! **See:** *Beneficial Insects* (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_beneficial_insects)

Flowering plants: Check for thrips if leaves and/or flowers of gardenias and roses are damaged. **See:** *Ornamental Insects Sheet 1* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in023>)

Perennials and bulbs: Divide clumps of bulbs, ornamental grasses, or herbaceous perennials to expand or rejuvenate garden beds or to pass along to friends. **See:** *Propagation of Landscape Plants* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg108>) and *Gardening with Perennials in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg035>)

Lawn insects: Rule out cultural problems, such as lack of water, that mimic insect damage before applying a pesticide. **See:** *Insect Pest Management on Turfgrass* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ig001>)

Lawns: Apply fertilizer after new growth has started. Choose a fertilizer (not a "weed and feed") with little or no phosphorus unless a soil test indicates the need for it.

A fertilizer with controlled-release nitrogen yields longer-lasting results. **See:** *Your Florida Lawn* (<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/yourfloridalawn/>), *Bahiagrass for Florida Lawns* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh006>), *Bermudagrass for Florida Lawns* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh007>), *Centipedegrass for Florida Lawns* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh009>), *St. Augustinegrass for Florida Lawns* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh010>), and *Zoysiagrass for Florida Lawns* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh011>)



Figure 4. Lady beetle
Credits: UF/IFAS Photo by Marisol Amador

Shrubs: Choose from a wide variety of shrubs to add to the landscape now. **See:** *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design* (http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_v090110.pdf) and *Planting Shrubs in the Florida Landscape* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep390>)

Mulch: Add mulch to minimize weeds and conserve moisture during dry weather. Organic mulches add nutrients to the soil. **See:** *Landscape Mulches: What Are the Choices in Florida?* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr079>)

May

What to Plant

Annuals: Plants that can take summer heat include salvia, torenia, wax begonia, coleus, and ornamental pepper. **See:** *Gardening with Annuals in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg319>)

Bulbs: Some lilies do better when their roots are crowded. Try planting Amazon, Aztec, and Clivia lilies in containers to increase blooming. **See:** *Bulbs for Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg029>)

Herbs: Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. **See:** *Herbs in the Florida Garden* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh020>)

Vegetables: Southern favorites to plant now are okra, southern pea, and sweet potato. **See:** *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>)

What to Do

Pests: Watch for thrips, scale, and mites on ornamental plants because they become more active in warm weather. **See:** *Ornamental Insects Sheet 1* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in023>) and *Ornamental Insects Sheet 2* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in024>)

Gardenias: Distinguish between the normal yellowing of older leaves and the yellowing of new growth, which usually indicates a micronutrient deficiency. **See:** *Growing Gardenias in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg336>)

Oleanders: Inspect chewed or ragged leaves for oleander caterpillars at work. **See:** *Oleander Caterpillar* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in135>)

Lawn insects: Watch for damage from chinch bugs in St. Augustinegrass and begin scouting for newly hatched mole crickets in bahiagrass lawns. **See:** *Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh034>)

Tomatoes: Watch for pests, disease, and nutritional disorders on tomato plants. **See:** *Tomatoes in the Florida Garden* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh028>)

Lawns: Prevent or minimize disease by following proper cultural practices when caring for lawns. If bahiagrass lawns are yellowing, iron may correct the problem. **See:** *Bahiagrass for Florida Lawns* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh006>) and *Turfgrass Disease Management* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh040>)

Trees: Prepare for hurricane season by checking trees for damaged or weak branches and pruning if needed. Hire an ISA-certified arborist. **See:** International Society of Arboriculture (<http://isa-arbor.com/>), *Developing a Preventative Pruning Program: Young Trees* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep315>), and *Developing a Preventative Pruning Program: Mature Trees* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep316>)



Figure 5. Tomato
Credits: UF/IFAS Photo by Sally Lanigan

June

What to Plant

Annuals: Annuals that can take full sun during the increasingly hot summer months include celosia, portulaca, vinca, and some coleus. **See:** *Gardening with Annuals in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg319>)

Palms: Summer's warm, rainy months are the perfect time to plant palms. Make sure not to cover the trunk with soil. **See:** *Transplanting Palms in the Landscape* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep001>)

Herbs: Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. Pinch back regularly to prevent flowering and enhance branching. **See:** *Herbs in the Florida Garden* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh020>)

Vegetables: Plant okra, southern pea, calabaza, Malabar spinach, and sweet potato. It's too late to plant tomatoes. **See:** *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>)

What to Do

Pests: Monitor the landscape and garden weekly for harmful insects. Knowing which insects attack a plant can aid in identification and treatment. **See:** *Landscape Integrated Pest Management* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in109>)

Irrigation: Watch for drought stress and water as needed if rainfall has been spotty. Focus on new plantings and follow watering restrictions. When rains begin, shut down the irrigation system. **See:** *Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep110>)

Propagation: Produce more plants by air layering, grafting, division, or cuttings. **See:** *Propagation of Landscape Plants* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg108>)

Palms and cycads: Watch for nutrient deficiencies or other problems and use an appropriate treatment. Keep lawn fertilizers away from the root zone. **See:** *Physiological Disorders of Landscape Palms* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep263>)

Pruning: Lightly prune summer-flowering shrubs, like hibiscus, oleander, and crapemyrtle, during the warmer months because they bloom on new growth. Azaleas can still be pruned until the middle of next month without harming next spring's buds. **See:** *Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg087>)



Figure 6. Hibiscus
Credits: UF/IFAS Photo by Marisol Amador

Lawns: Check frequently for damaged areas and keep insects in check with early treatment. Determine whether yellow and brown lawn patches are caused by chinch bugs, disease, or lack of water. Take time to determine the cause so your remedy is effective. Rejuvenate areas where grass doesn't grow well by replacing it with versatile groundcovers. **See:** *Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh034>) and *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design* (http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_v090110.pdf)

Soil solarization: Clean up your vegetable garden and solarize the soil to kill pests and disease. **See:** *Introduction to Soil Solarization* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in856>)

July

What to Plant

Bedding plants: Summer annuals to plant now include celosia, coleus, torenia, and ornamental pepper. **See:** *Gardening with Annuals in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg319>)

Bulbs: Butterfly lily and gladiolus can be planted during the middle of summer. **See:** *Bulbs for Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg029>)

Herbs: While summer is too hot to start herbs from seeds, many do well if started from small plants. **See:** *Herbs in the Florida Garden* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh020>)

Palms: Continue planting palms while the rainy season is in full swing. Support large palms with braces for 6–8 months after planting. Nails should not be driven directly into a palm trunk. **See:** *Transplanting Palms in the Landscape* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep001>)

What to Do

Trees: Prepare for hurricane season by checking trees for damaged or weak branches and pruning if needed. Hire an ISA-certified arborist. **See:** International Society of Arboriculture (<http://isa-arbor.com/>), *Developing a Preventative Pruning Program: Young Trees* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep315>), and *Developing a Preventative Pruning Program: Mature Trees* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep316>)

Lawns: Determine the cause of any lawn problems before taking action. If an insect is the culprit, treat only the affected area. Rule out disease or sprinkler malfunction. **See:** *Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh034>)

Vegetable garden: Use summer heat to solarize the vegetable garden for fall planting. It takes 4–6 weeks to kill weeds, disease, and nematodes, so start now. **See:** *Introduction to Soil Solarization* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in856>) and *Managing Nematodes for the Non-Commercial Vegetable Garden* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ng005>)

Azaleas: Prune no later than mid-July to protect developing buds for next spring's bloom. **See:** *Azaleas at a Glance* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg019>)

Irrigation: Install an inexpensive rain shutoff device to save money by overriding an irrigation system when it rains. If one is already installed, check that it is operating properly. **See:** *Residential Irrigation System Rainfall Irrigation Shutoff Devices* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ae221>)

Pests on ornamental plants: Inspect the leaves of azaleas and ornamental plants for small white dots that may indicate lace bugs at work. Spray forcefully with water to help control this pest. **See:** *Lace Bugs on Ornamental Plants* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg326>)

Citrus: Check citrus trees for damage to fruit or leaves and take action to minimize the effect of insects and/or disease on developing fruit and the overall health of the tree. **See:** *Citrus Problems in the Home Landscape* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs141>)



Figure 7. Azaleas
Credits: UF/IFAS

August

What to Plant

Bedding plants: The hottest days of summer limit planting now to heat-tolerant annuals, such as coleus, kalanchoe, and vinca. **See:** *Gardening with Annuals in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg319>)

Bulbs: Aztec lily, butterfly lily, walking iris, and spider lily can be planted any time of the year, even late summer. **See:** *Bulbs for Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg029>)

Herbs: Herbs that can be planted from plants (not seeds) include bay laurel, ginger, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. **See:** *Herbs in the Florida Garden* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh020>)

Vegetables: Many cool-season crops, such as collards and onion, can be planted now, including a final crop of warm-season vegetables, such as pepper. Tomato can also be planted for the fall garden. **See:** *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>)



Figure 8. Vinca
Credits: UF/IFAS Photo by Tyler Jones

What to Do

Lawns: Apply controlled-release nitrogen to St. Augustine-grass and zoysiagrass lawns this month. **See:** *St. Augustine-grass for Florida Lawns* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh010>) and *Zoysiagrass for Florida Lawns* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh011>)

Palms: Check older fronds for yellowing as it may indicate a magnesium or potassium deficiency. Apply an appropriate palm fertilizer. **See:** *Nutrient Deficiencies of Landscape and Field-Grown Palms in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep273>)

Vegetables: Solarize the vegetable garden in preparation for fall planting if not done in July. **See:** *Introduction to Soil Solarization* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in856>) and *Managing Nematodes for the Non-Commercial Vegetable Garden* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ng005>)

Poinsettias: Pinch back poinsettias and mums before the end of the month to allow time for buds to form for winter bloom. **See:** *Poinsettias at a Glance* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep349>)

Ornamental plants: Fertilize plants that show signs of deficiencies. Rapid growth and leaching rains may result in nutrient deficiencies in some plants. **See:** *Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep110>)

Bedding plants: Remove spent blooms, cut back, and fertilize flowering annuals and perennials to extend the bloom season into the fall months. **See:** *Gardening with Annuals in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg319>) and *Gardening with Perennials in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg035>)

September

What to Plant

Bedding plants: If summer beds need refreshing, try ageratum, coleus, celosia, zinnia, and wax begonia for color into fall. **See:** *Gardening with Annuals in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg319>)

Bulbs: Add color, texture, and pattern to the garden with the many varieties of elephant's ear (*Alocasia* spp.) now available. **See:** *Alocasia spp. Elephant's Ear* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fp033>)

Herbs: Plant herbs that tolerate the warm temperatures of early fall, such as Mexican tarragon, mint, rosemary, and basil. **See:** *Herbs in the Florida Garden* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh020>)



Figure 9. Hydroponic lettuce and herbs
Credits: UF/IFAS

Vegetables: Plant cool-season vegetable crops, such as celery, cabbage, lettuce, and collards. **See:** *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>)

What to Do

Lawn problems: Continue to monitor the lawn for signs of insect damage. Fall armyworms, chinch bugs, mole crickets, and sod webworms are still active this month. **See:** *Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh034>)

Perennials and bulbs: Divide and replant perennials and bulbs that have grown too large or need rejuvenation. Add organic matter to new planting areas and monitor water needs during establishment. **See:** *Propagation of Landscape Plants* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg108>)

Lawns: Fertilize bermudagrass with controlled-release nitrogen this month. **See:** *Bermudagrass for Florida Lawns* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh007>)

Irrigation: Check that irrigation systems are providing good coverage and operating properly before summer rains taper off. **See:** *How to Calibrate your Sprinkler System* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh026>)

Citrus: Fertilize citrus with a balanced fertilizer either this month or in October. If the weather has been rainy, do not use soluble nitrogen as rains will leach it from the soil too quickly. **See:** *Citrus Culture in the Home Landscape* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs132>)

Vegetable gardens: Prepare the fall vegetable garden if not done in August. Using transplants from your local garden center will get the garden off to a fast start, but seeds provide a wider variety from which to choose. **See:** *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>)

October

What to Plant

Bedding plants: Even though temperatures are still warm, begin planting for the cooler months ahead. Dianthus, petunia, and pansy are good annuals for the fall garden. **See:** *Gardening with Annuals in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg319>)

Bulbs: Plant agapanthus, rain lily, and many varieties of lilies now for blooms next spring or summer. Add organic matter to the planting bed for best results. **See:** *Bulbs for Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg029>)

Herbs: A wide range of herbs can be planted from seeds or plants this month. Some to try include parsley, cilantro, chives, garlic, and sage. **See:** *Herbs in the Florida Garden* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh020>)

Vegetables: Plant crops now that will grow and produce throughout the winter months. This includes beet, Brussels sprout, carrot, and onion. **See:** *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>)

What to Do

Lawn weeds: Control winter weeds in lawns before they appear. Preemergent herbicides must be applied at the right time to be effective. Apply when nighttime temperatures are 55°F–60°F for 4–5 days. Avoid “weed and feed” products. **See:** *Weed Management in Home Lawns* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep141>)

Ornamental trees and shrubs: Fertilize plants that aren't performing as desired. Controlled-release fertilizer provides nutrients over a longer period of time. **See:** *Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep110>)

Lawn fertilization: Fertilize bahiagrass and St. Augustine-grass lawns. Choose a fertilizer (not a “weed and feed”) with little or no phosphorus unless a soil test indicates the need for it. A fertilizer with controlled-release nitrogen will give longer-lasting results. This is the last fertilization for these lawn types for the year. **See:** *Bahiagrass for Florida Lawns* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh006>) and *St. Augustinegrass for Florida Lawns* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh010>)

Strawberries: Prepare beds and set strawberry plants this month. Strawberries also make a colorful and tasty container planting. Either way, water daily until plants are established. **See:** *Growing Strawberries in the Florida Home Garden* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs403>)



Figure 10. Strawberries
Credits: UF/IFAS

Winter landscapes: Plant evergreen hollies; their bright berries add color to the landscape when other plants have died back for the winter. Water well when planting and mulch to minimize weeds. **See:** *Hollies in Florida*

(<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg021>) and *Planting Shrubs in the Florida Landscape* (edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep390)

Twig girdlers: Control twig girdlers by cleaning up and destroying fallen branches that young twig girdlers can use for harborage. **See:** *Insect Borers of Trees and Shrubs* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg007>)

November

What to Plant

Bedding plants: Create a display of fall colors with cool-season plants. Some to try include pansy, viola, snapdragon, dianthus, cape daisy, and alyssum. **See:** *Gardening with Annuals in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg319>)



Figure 11. Crinum lily
Credits: UF/IFAS

Bulbs: Many bulbs like to get their start in cool weather. Bulbs to plant this month include amaryllis, crinum, and daylily. **See:** *Bulbs for Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg029>)

Herbs: Continue planting herbs from seeds or plants. A wide variety of herbs prefer cool, dry weather, including cilantro, parsley, sage, and thyme. **See:** *Herbs in the Florida Garden* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh020>)

Vegetables: Continue planting cool-season crops, such as beet, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, kale, and lettuce. **See:** *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>)

What to Do

Perennials: Divide and replant overgrown perennials and bulbs now so that they establish before the cold weather

arrives. **See:** *Propagation of Landscape Plants* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg108>)

Fungal disease: Watch for brown patch and large patch until May. These fungal diseases cause areas of grass to turn brown. Since treatment is difficult, prevention with proper cultural practices is key. **See:** *Brown Patch* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh044>)

Scale insects: Take advantage of lower temperatures to apply horticultural oil sprays to control scale insects. **See:** *Scale Insects and Mealybugs on Ornamental Plants* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg005>)

Irrigation: Turn off systems and water only if needed. Plants need less supplemental watering in cooler weather. **See:** *Watering Efficiently* (http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/handbook/Water_Efficiently_vSept09.pdf)

Poinsettias: Watch for hornworms on poinsettias planted in the landscape. This pest can quickly defoliate the plant; handpick or treat only the infested area. **See:** *Poinsettias at a Glance* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep349>)

Lawns: Fertilize bermudagrass and zoysiagrass lawns. Choose a fertilizer (not a “weed and feed”) with little or no phosphorus unless a soil test indicates the need for it. A fertilizer with controlled-release nitrogen provides longer-lasting results. This is the last fertilization for these lawn types for the year. **See:** *Bermudagrass for Florida Lawns* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh007>) and *Zoysiagrass for Florida Lawns* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh011>)

December

What to Plant

Bedding plants: To add color to the winter garden, plant masses of petunia, pansy, and snapdragon. **See:** *Gardening with Annuals in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg319>)

Bulbs: Amaryllis is a popular plant for the holiday season. It can be forced to bloom now or planted outdoors for spring blooms. **See:** *Amaryllis* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep060>)

Herbs: Plant herbs that thrive in cool weather. Some to try include parsley, thyme, sage, dill, fennel, and cilantro. **See:** *Herbs in the Florida Garden* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh020>)

Vegetables: Reliable cool-season vegetables to plant this month include celery, cauliflower, lettuce, cabbage, and

carrot. **See:** *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>)



Figure 12. Poinsettia
Credits: UF/IFAS Photo by Tyler Jones

What to Do

Poinsettias: Enjoy one of the most popular indoor holiday plants. Protect it from cold until spring, and then plant it in the garden for next year. **See:** *Poinsettias at a Glance* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep349>)

Cold protection: Prepare now to protect tender plants should cold weather threaten. **See:** *Cold Protection of Ornamental Plants* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg025>)

Fungal disease: Continue monitoring for brown patch and large patch fungal diseases until May. Proper cultural practices are key for control. **See:** *Brown Patch* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh044>)

Houseplants: Inspect regularly for pests on indoor plants. Keep in mind that plant-specific temperature, light, and humidity are key to ensuring that indoor plants thrive. **See:** *Managing Pests of Indoor Plantscapes* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ig110>)

Soil test: Consider performing a soil test if plants do not perform as desired or if new plantings are planned. **See:** *Soil Testing* (http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/agriculture/soil_testing.html)

Compost/mulch: Use fallen leaves to provide the carbon ingredient needed for successful composting and also to make a good mulch. **See:** *Compost Tips for the Home Gardener* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep323>)

Landscape and garden pests: Continue monitoring and treat as needed. While cooler weather generally means fewer pests, some populations actually increase at this time

of year. **See:** *Insect Management in the Home Garden* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh036>) and *Landscape Integrated Pest Management* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in109>)

What to Do Every Month

- Adjust irrigation based on rainfall.
- Deadhead flowers to encourage new blooms.
- Monitor the garden for insects and disease.
- Plant trees, shrubs, and perennials and water until established.
- Warm Months - Mow lawns at recommended heights (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh028>):
 - St. Augustinegrass and bahiagrass: 3–4 in. (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh010> and <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh006>)
 - Centipedegrass: 1.5–2.0 in. (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh009>)
 - Dwarf St. Augustinegrass: 2.5 in. (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh010>)
 - Zoysiagrass: 0.2–2.5 in. (cultivar dependent) (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh011>)

UF Resources for Gardeners

UF/IFAS Publications (EDIS) (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>)

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/>)

Solutions For Your Life (<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>)

Gardening in a Minute Radio Program (<http://gardeninginaminute.com>)

Florida Master Gardener Program (<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/>)

Living Green (<http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/>)

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