



Florida Gardening Calendar

Comments or suggestions?

Dr. Sydney Park Brown
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January

South Florida Edition

What to Plant

Bedding Plants: Plants that can be added to the garden during the coolest months include begonia, browallia, lobelia, dianthus, dusty miller, and nicotiana. **See:**

[Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

Bulbs: Winter is a great time to plant bulbs that will bloom this spring. Some to try are Clivia lily, crinum, and agapanthus. **See:** [Bulbs for Florida](#)

Herbs: Many herbs will thrive now that temperatures are cooler, including tarragon, thyme, dill, fennel, and any of the mints. **See:** [Herbs in the Florida Garden](#)

Vegetables: Continue planting cool season crops including beet, cabbage, turnip, lettuce, and broccoli. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

What to Do

Rejuvenate the landscape: After the danger of freezing temperatures, it's a good time to plant woody shrubs. Water frequently to get new plantings off to a good start.

See: [Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design](#) [Planting Shrubs in Florida Landscapes](#)

Irrigation: Plants may need water if temperatures remain higher than normal and rainfall is scarce. **See:** [Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes](#)

Shrubs and Trees: Prune non-spring flowering shrubs and trees this month to improve form. **See:** [Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs](#)

Arbor Day: Florida observes Arbor Day on the 3rd Friday of January. To celebrate, plant a tree in your yard or community. **See:** [Arbor Day Foundation - Florida](#)

Crapemyrtle: While crapemyrtles do not require pruning, removing seed pods, crossing branches and small twiggy growth improves the appearance and form of the plant. **See:** [Crapemyrtle in Florida](#)

Cold Protection: If a frost or freeze is predicted, bring sensitive plants like orchids inside. Water sensitive plants in the landscape thoroughly 12-24 hours before a freeze and cover. **See:** [Cold Protection of Ornamental Plants](#)

[Cold Damage on Palms](#)

Pests: To control scale on citrus, shrubs, and deciduous fruit trees, apply horticultural oil while plants are dormant. Apply copper spray to mangos after bloom.

See: [Insect Management in the Home Garden](#)

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.
- [Mow lawns](#) at recommended heights:
 - St. Augustine & Bahia: 3-4"
 - Centipede: 1.5-2.0"
 - Dwarf St. Augustine: 2.5"
 - [Zoysiagrass](#)

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February

South Florida Edition

What to Plant

Bedding Plants: Good performers in South Florida's mild winter include impatiens, verbena, dianthus, strawflower, and lobelia. **See:** [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

Bulbs: Many bulbs can be planted now. Divide large crowded clumps. Provide adequate water to establish. Some to try are Amazon lily, crinum, and agapanthus. **See:** [Bulbs for Florida](#)

Ground Covers: Consider replacing areas of grass with drought tolerant, low maintenance ground covers. **See:** [Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design](#)

Vegetables: Begin planting warm season crops this month. Sweet potato, cantaloupe, eggplant and squash can be started while temperatures are cool. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

What to Do

Lawns: Fertilize lawns this month. Choose one (not a weed & feed) with no or very little phosphorus unless a soil test indicates the need for it. A fertilizer with controlled-release nitrogen will give longer lasting results. **See:** [Your Florida Lawn](#)
[Bahia grass for Florida Lawns](#) [Bermudagrass for Florida Lawns](#)
[Centipedegrass for Florida Lawns](#) [St. Augustine grass for Florida Lawns](#)
[Zoysiagrass for Florida Lawns](#)

Prune Roses: Roses should be pruned this month to reduce and improve the overall form. After pruning, fertilize and apply a fresh layer of mulch. Blooming will begin eight to nine weeks after pruning. **See:** [Growing Roses in Florida](#)

Fertilize Shrubs and Palms: Spread fertilizer evenly over the soil surface and water in. Follow with a fresh layer of mulch to conserve moisture and reduce weeds. Hold off pruning cold-damaged branches until new growth starts. **See:** [Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes](#)

Lawn Weeds: Apply a pre-emergent 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](#)

Spray: When avocados and mango have lost 2/3 of blossoms, spray copper fungicide to control anthracnose. **See:** [Diseases of Avocado in Florida](#)
[Some Common Diseases of Mango in Florida](#)

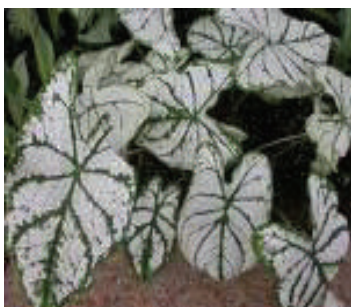
Fruits: If not done in January, fertilize fruit trees including citrus now. **See:** [Citrus Culture in the Home Landscape](#) [Tropical and Subtropical Fruit Crops for the Home Landscape: Alternatives to Citrus](#)

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.
- [Mow lawns](#) at recommended heights:
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What to Plant

Annuals: Plant heat tolerant annuals for color such as crossandra, gazania, melampodium, and zinnia, that will last into fall. **See:** [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

Bulbs: Plant gladiolus corms 6" apart and 4" deep and stake as they grow. Plant caladiums for a showy tropical display all summer. **See:** [Bulbs for Florida](#)

Herbs: In addition to their culinary value, many herbs are ornamental and attract butterflies to the garden. **See:** [Herbs in the Florida Garden](#)

Vegetables: Warm season crops, such as sweet corn, cucumber, watermelon, and pepper, should be planted now for late spring harvest. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

What to Do

Trees and shrubs: 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 new buds set. **See:** [Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs](#)

Mulch: Renew or add mulch in landscape beds to reduce weeds and retain moisture. **See:** [Landscape Mulches: What Are The Choices in Florida?](#)

Fertilize lawns: If not done in February, fertilize lawns this month. **See:** [Your Florida Lawn](#) [Bahia grass for Florida Lawns](#)

[Bermudagrass for Florida Lawns](#) [Centipedegrass for Florida Lawns](#)
[St. Augustine grass for Florida Lawns](#) [Zoysiagrass for Florida Lawns](#)

Pests: Monitor landscape plants for insects, especially for the presence of aphids on tender new growth. Insects become more active during warm weather. **See:** [Landscape Integrated Pest Management](#) [Ornamental Insects Sheet 2](#)

Fertilize: [palms](#) and ornamental shrubs if not done last month. Choose a fertilizer based on each plant's needs. **See:** [Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes](#)

Examine lawns for problems: Identify damaging insects and spot treat early to prevent widespread damage. Rule out cultural problems, such as irrigation failure, before treatment. **See:** [Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn](#)

Tropical and subtropical fruits: Add variety and interest to the landscape and table with exotic fruits. **See:** [Tropical and Subtropical Fruit Crops for the Home Landscape: Alternatives to Citrus](#)

What to Do Every Month

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April

South Florida Edition

What to Plant

Annuals: Plant heat-tolerant annuals, such as coleus, vinca, and portulaca. **See:** [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

Bulbs: Cannas thrive in the heat of summer. New varieties have colorful leaves as well as flowers. **See:** [Bulbs for Florida](#)

Herbs: Add nasturtiums to your herb garden. The leaves and flowers add a peppery zest to salads. **See:** [Nasturtium, Garden - Tropaeolum majus L.](#)

Vegetables: Continue planting warm-season vegetables such as eggplant, southern pea, bush bean, sweet potato, and summer squash. Watch irrigation if the weather is dry. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

What to Do

Pests: When monitoring insect activity, know which bugs damage plants and which do not. **See:** [Insects Sheet 1](#) [Insects Sheet 2](#)

Identify and conserve beneficial insects: Some insects should be encouraged in your yard! **See:** [Beneficial Insects](#)

Flowering Plants: Damaged flowers on gardenias and roses may indicate thrips are present. **See:** [Insects Sheet 1](#)

Tomatoes: Watch for pests, disease, and nutritional disorders on developing tomato plants. **See:** [Tomatoes in the Florida Garden](#)

Palms: Identify and treat environmental and nutritional disorders in palm trees. **See:** [Palm Problems](#)

Oleanders: Chewed or ragged leaves indicate oleander caterpillars at work. **See:** [Oleander Caterpillar](#)

Fruits: Propagate fruit crops by air layering and grafting. **See:** [Propagation of Landscape Plants](#)

Divide perennials and bulbs: Divide clumps of bulbs, ornamental grasses, and herbaceous perennials to expand garden beds or to pass along to friends. **See:** [Propagation of Landscape Plants](#) [Gardening with Perennials in Florida](#)

Shrubs: Choose from a wide variety of shrubs to add to the landscape now. **See:** [Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design](#) [Planting Shrubs in the Florida Landscape](#)

What to Do Every Month

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May

South Florida Edition

What to Plant

Annuals: Plants that can take summer heat include coleus, salvia, torenia, wax begonia, and ornamental pepper. **See:** [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

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](#)

Herbs: Plant heat loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, ginger, cumin, summer savory, and rosemary. **See:** [Herbs in the Florida Garden](#)

Vegetables: Southern favorites to plant now are okra, southern pea, and sweet potato. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

What to Do

Pests: Harmful insects become more active as the weather warms. Watch for thrips, scale, and mites on ornamental plants. **See:** [Insects Sheet 1](#) [Insects Sheet 2](#) [Lace Bugs on Ornamental Plants](#)

Gardenias and Ixora: While some yellowing of older leaves is normal, yellowing of new growth usually indicates a micronutrient deficiency. **See:** [Gardenias Nutrient Deficiency Symptoms of Woody Ornamental Plants in South Florida](#)

Oleanders: Chewed or ragged leaves indicate oleander caterpillars at work. **See:** [Oleander Caterpillar](#)

Lawn insects: Watch for damage from chinch bugs in St. Augustine and begin scouting for newly hatched mole crickets in Bahia lawns. **See:** [Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn](#)

Tomatoes: Watch for pests, disease, and nutritional disorders on tomato plants. **See:** [Tomatoes in the Florida Garden](#)

Trees: Prepare for hurricane season by checking trees for damaged or weak branches and prune if needed. Hire an ISA certified arborist. **See:** [International Society of Arboriculture](#) [Pruning Young Trees](#) [Pruning Mature Trees](#)

Lawn nutrition: If *Bahia* lawns are yellowing, iron can correct the problem. **See:** [Bahia grass for Florida Lawns](#)

Prevent lawn diseases: Prevent or minimize disease by following proper cultural practices when caring for lawns. **See:** [Turfgrass Disease Management](#)

What to Do Every Month

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June

South Florida Edition

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](#)

Palms: Summer's warm, rainy weather is the perfect time to plant palms. **See:** [Ornamental Palms for South Florida](#) [Transplanting Palms in the Landscape](#)

Herbs: Plant heat loving herbs, including basil, ginger, summer savory, cumin, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. **See:** [Herbs in the Florida Garden](#)

Vegetables: Plant tropical vegetables such as boniato and chayote this month. **See:** [South Florida Tropicals](#) [Chayote](#)

What to Do

Pests: Monitor the garden weekly for harmful insects. Knowing which insects attack a plant can aid in identification and control. **See:** [Landscape Integrated Pest Management](#)

Irrigation: Watch for drought stress and water as needed if rainfall is spotty. Focus on new plantings and follow water restrictions. When rains begin, shut down the irrigation system. **See:** [Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes](#)

Propagation: Now is a good time to produce more plants by air layering, grafting, division, or cuttings. **See:** [Propagation of Landscape Plants](#)

Palms and cycads: Watch for nutrient deficiencies or environmental problems with palms and correct using an appropriate treatment. **See:** [Physiological Disorders of Landscape Palms](#)

Pruning: Many summer flowering shrubs, like hibiscus, oleander, and ixora, bloom more when lightly pruned during the warmer months. **See:** [Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs](#)

Lawns: Check frequently for damaged areas and keep insects in check with early treatment. Determine whether yellow and brown 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 with versatile ground covers. **See:** [Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn](#) [Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design](#)

Soil Solarization: Put your vegetable garden to bed and solarize the soil for 4-6 weeks to kill pests and disease. **See:** [Introduction to Soil Solarization](#)

Lightning Safety: Be safe outdoors during storm season.

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July

South Florida Edition

What to Plant

Bedding Plants: Summer annuals to plant now include celosia, coleus, torenia, and ornamental pepper. **See:** [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

Bulbs: Butterfly lily and gladiolus are bulbs that can be planted during the middle of summer. **See:** [Bulbs for Florida](#)

Vegetables: Start seeds now to transplant later into the fall vegetable garden.

See: [Starting the Garden with Transplants](#)

Herbs: While summer is too hot to start herbs from seeds, many will do well if started from small plants. **See:** [Herbs in the Florida Garden](#)

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:** [Ornamental Palms for South Florida](#)
[Transplanting Palms in the Landscape](#)

What to Do

Trees: Prepare for hurricane season by checking trees for damaged or weak branches and prune if needed. Hire an ISA certified arborist. **See:** [International Society of Arboriculture](#) [Pruning Young Trees](#) [Pruning Mature Trees](#)

Lawn insects: Lawn pests can be a problem this time of year. Before treating, make sure an insect is the culprit and treat only the affected area. **See:** [Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn](#)

Solarize the vegetable garden. Use summer's heat to prepare the vegetable garden soil for fall planting. It takes four to six weeks to kill weeds, disease and nematodes, so start now. **See:** [Introduction to Soil Solarization](#)

Irrigation: An inexpensive rain shut off device can 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](#)

Pests on Ornamental Plants: Small white dots or stippling on the leaves of azaleas and other ornamental plants may indicate lacebugs at work. Spraying forcefully with water helps control this pest. **See:** [Lacebugs on Ornamental Plants](#)

Tropical Fruit Trees: Check for damage to fruit or leaves; take action to minimize the damage on developing fruit or the overall health of the tree. **See:** [Citrus Problems in the Home Landscape](#) [Pesticides Registered for Tropical Fruit Crops in Florida](#)

What to Do Every Month

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- Monitor the garden for insects and disease.
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August

South Florida Edition

What to Plant

Bedding Plants: The hottest days of summer limit planting now to heat-tolerant vinca, coleus, salvia, and celosia. **See:** [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

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](#)

Herbs: Herbs that can be planted from plants (not seeds) include bay laurel, ginger, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. **See:** [Herbs in the Florida Garden](#)

Vegetables: Many cool-season crops, such as bean and collards, can be started 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](#)

What to Do

Lawns: Apply controlled-release nitrogen (not a weed & feed) to St. Augustine and Zoysia lawns this month. **See:** [St. Augustinegrass for Florida Lawns](#)
[Zoysia for Florida Lawns](#)

Palms: If older fronds are yellowing, a deficiency of magnesium or potassium may be the problem. **See:** [Nutritional Deficiencies of Landscape and Field-grown Palms in Florida](#) [Fertilization of Field-grown and Landscape Palms in Florida](#)

Vegetables: If not done in July, solarize the vegetable garden for 4-6 weeks in preparation for fall planting. **See:** [Introduction to Soil Solarization](#)

Poinsettias: Pinch back poinsettias and chrysanthemums before the end of the month to allow time for buds to set for winter bloom. **See:** [Poinsettias at a Glance](#)

Ornamental Plants: Rapid growth and leaching rains may result in nutrient deficiencies in some plants. Fertilize those plants that show signs of deficiencies. **See:** [Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes](#)

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](#) [Gardening with Perennials in Florida](#)

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September

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Bedding Plants: If summer beds need refreshing, try scarlet sage, nasturtium, celosia, and wax begonia for color into fall. **See:** [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

Bulbs: Plant gladiolus every 2 weeks to stagger blooming, staking each plant. Add color, texture and pattern to the garden with the many varieties of Elephant's Ear (Alocasia) available now. **See:** [Bulbs for Florida](#)

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](#)

Vegetables: Prepare the fall vegetable garden. 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. Cool-season crops such as broccoli, cabbage, collards, and lettuce can be planted now. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

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](#)

Divide perennials and bulbs: Divide and replant perennials and bulbs that have grown too large or need rejuvenation. Add organic matter to planting beds and monitor water needs during establishment. **See:** [Propagation of Landscape Plants](#)

Fertilize lawns: Fertilize bermudagrass with controlled-release nitrogen (not a weed & feed) this month. Wait until next month to fertilize centipedegrass and bahiagrass lawns. **See:** [Bermudagrass for Florida Lawns](#)

Check irrigation system: Before summer rains taper off, check that irrigation systems are providing good coverage and operating properly. **See:** [How to Calibrate Your Sprinkler System](#)

Citrus: Fertilize citrus with a balanced fertilizer either this month or in October. Use controlled-release nitrogen as rain will not leach it from the soil too quickly. **See:** [Citrus Culture in the Home Landscape](#)

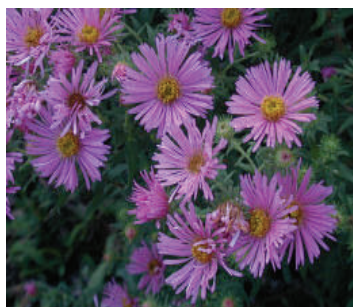
Shrubs: Consider placing native shrubs like beautyberry, marlberry, firebush, and dahoon holly where you can view the birds that enjoy them. **See:** [Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design](#)
[Planting Shrubs in Florida Landscapes](#)

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Florida Gardening Calendar

Comments or suggestions?

Dr. Sydney Park Brown
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October

South Florida Edition

What to Plant

Bedding Plants: Even though temperatures are still warm, begin planting for the cooler months ahead. Impatiens, alyssum, and dianthus are good plants for the fall/winter garden. **See:** [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

Bulbs: Plant agapanthus, rain lily, and Clivia lily now for blooms next spring or summer. Add organic matter to the planting bed for best results. **See:** [Bulbs for Florida](#)

Herbs: A wide range of herbs can be planted from seed or transplants this month. Some to try are dill, fennel, parsley, and cilantro. **See:** [Herbs in the Florida Garden](#)

Vegetables: Plant crops now that will grow and produce through the winter months. This includes beet, English pea, carrot, garlic, and onion. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

What to Do

Lawn weeds: Control winter weeds in lawns before they appear. Pre-emergent herbicides should be applied when nighttime temps drop to 55-60°F for several consecutive nights. **See:** [Weed Management in Home Lawns](#)

Fertilize ornamental trees and shrubs: This is the last month of the year to fertilize shrubs and trees. Controlled-release fertilizer provides nutrients over a longer period of time. **See:** [Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes](#)

Fertilize lawns: For bahiagrass and centipedegrass lawns use a fertilizer (not a weed & feed) that contains controlled-release nitrogen for longer lasting results. Choose one with little or no phosphorus unless a soil test indicates a need. This is the last lawn fertilization for the year. **See:** [Bahagrass for Florida Lawns](#)
[Centipedegrass for Florida Lawns](#)

Strawberries: Prepare beds and set strawberry plants this month. Strawberries also make a colorful and tasty container planting. Water daily until plants are established. **See:** [Growing Strawberries in the Florida Home Garden](#)

Fertilize Palms: Fertilize palms this month with 8-2-12+4Mg. **See:** [Fertilization of Field-Grown and Landscape Palms in Florida](#)

Oleanders: The oleander caterpillar is a year round resident in South Florida. To control without harming beneficial insects, prune off infested leaves or spray with BT (Bacillus thuringiensis). **See:** [Oleander Caterpillar](#)

Twig girdlers: Small branches falling from oak and hickory trees may be the work of twig girdlers. To control, clean up and destroy fallen branches, which may harbor young twig girdlers. **See:** [Insect Borers of Trees and Shrubs](#)

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.
- [Mow lawns](#) at recommended heights:
 - St. Augustine & Bahia: 3-4"
 - Centipede: 1.5-2.0"
 - Dwarf St. Augustine: 2.5"
 - [Zoysiagrass](#)

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
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Florida Gardening Calendar

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November

South Florida Edition

What to Plant

Bedding Plants: Create a display of fall colors with cool season plants. Some to try are impatiens, strawflower, cape daisy, and pansy. **See:** [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

Bulbs: Many bulbs like to get their start in cool weather. Bulbs to plant this month include amaryllis, crinum, and the many varieties of elephant's ear. **See:** [Bulbs for Florida](#)

Herbs: Continue planting herbs from seeds or plants. A wide variety of herbs like cooler, dryer weather, including cilantro, dill, fennel, parsley, sage, and thyme. **See:** [Herbs in the Florida Garden](#)

Vegetables: Continue planting cool season crops such as beet, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, kale, and lettuce. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

What to Do

Perennials: Divide and replant overgrown perennials, ornamental grasses, and bulbs now so that they establish before the coolest weather arrives. **See:** [Propagation of Landscape Plants](#)

Fungal disease: Until May, watch for brown patch and large patch, fungal diseases that cause areas of grass to turn brown. Since treatment is difficult, prevention with proper cultural practices is key. **See:** [Brown Patch](#)

Scale on ornamental plants: Now that temperatures are lower, use dormant oil sprays to control scale insects. **See:** [Scale Insects and Mealybugs on Ornamental Plants](#)

Irrigation: Plants need less supplemental watering in cooler weather. Turn off systems and water only if needed. **See:** [Water Efficiently](#)
[Fertilization and Irrigation Needs of Florida Lawns and Landscapes](#)

Poinsettias: Watch for hornworms on poinsettias planted in the landscape. This pest can quickly defoliate a plant; handpick or treat only the area infested. **See:** [Poinsettias at a Glance](#)

Lawns: This is a great time to plant ryegrass to cover bare patches in the lawn. **See:** [Your Florida Lawn](#)

What to Do Every Month

- Adjust irrigation based on rainfall.
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- Monitor the garden for insects and disease.
- Plant trees, shrubs, and perennials and water until established.
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Florida Gardening Calendar

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December

South Florida Edition

What to Plant

Bedding Plants: To add color to the winter garden, plant masses of begonia, impatiens, and geranium. **See:** [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

Bulbs: Amaryllis is a popular plant for the holiday season. They can be forced to bloom now or planted outdoors for spring blooms. **See:** [Amaryllis](#)

Herbs: Plant herbs that thrive in cool weather. Some to try are parsley, thyme, sage, dill, fennel, and cilantro. **See:** [Herbs in the Florida Garden](#)

Vegetables: Reliable cool season vegetables to plant this month include celery, cauliflower, lettuce, cabbage, and carrot. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

What to Do

Poinsettias: One of the most popular holiday plants is poinsettia. Enjoy it indoors now; then plant in the garden to re-bloom next year. **See:** [Poinsettias at a Glance](#)

Irrigation: Plants may need irrigation if the weather has been warm and dry. Monitor for signs of stress and water only as needed. **See:** [Fertilization and Irrigation Needs of Florida Lawns and Landscapes](#)

Fungal disease: Continue monitoring for brown patch and large patch fungal disease through May. Cultural practices are key in control. **See:** [Brown Patch](#)

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](#)

Soil Test: If plants did not perform as desired this year or new plantings are being planned, a soil test may be a good idea. **See:** [Soil Testing](#)

Compost: Composting is environmentally friendly and produces a beneficial soil amendment or mulch. Plant debris provides the carbon ingredient needed for successful composting. **See:** [Compost Tips for the Home Gardener](#)

Pests: While cooler weather generally means fewer pests, some populations actually increase at this time of year. Continue monitoring and treat as needed. **See:** [Landscape Integrated Pest Management](#)

Holiday Trees: Consider enjoying a live southern red cedar and then plant it in the landscape when the holidays are over. **See:** [Christmas Tree Selection and Care](#)
[Planting Shrubs in the Florida Landscape](#)

Protect: Falling temperatures may require protection of tender orchids, impatiens, and tomatoes. **See:** [Cold Protection of Ornamental Plants](#)

What to Do Every Month

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