

Central Florida Gardening Calendar¹

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January

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: Plants that can be added to the garden during the coolest months include dianthus, petunia, viola, and snapdragon. *See Annuals:* https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

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:* https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

Camellias: Select and plant camellias this month. Visit local nurseries now for the best selection of colors and forms. *See Camellias:* https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_camellia

Vegetables: Irish potatoes can be planted now. Start with healthy seed pieces purchased from a local nursery or online seed catalog. It may seem too early, but tomatoes can be planted now to beat the heat and warm-season pests. Protect them during cold snaps. Continue planting cool-season crops, including broccoli, kale, carrots, and lettuce. *See Vegetable Gardening in Florida:* https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening



Figure 1. Camellia
Credits: UF/IFAS

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 Temperate Fruit for the Home Landscape:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_home_temperate_fruit

Cold protection: Frosts or freezes may occur this month and next. Be ready to cover tender plants to minimize damage and be sure covers extend all the way to the ground. *See Cold Protection and Chilling Damage of Landscape Plants:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscapes_and_cold

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Irrigation: Irrigate lawns and landscape plants minimally. This is their dormant season. **See** *Landscape Irrigation*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation

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/topic_tree_pruning

Arbor Day: Celebrate Florida Arbor Day (the third Friday of January) by planting a tree in your yard or community. **See** *Arbor Day in Florida*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_arbor_day

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*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_crapemyrtle

Pests: Apply horticultural oil to control scale insects. Read and follow the label instructions because oil can damage plants when misapplied. **See** *Landscape Pest Management*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests

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/> and *Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs*: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning

February What to Plant

Annuals/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** *Annuals*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

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

Azaleas: With azaleas in full bloom this month, now is a great time to select varieties to add to the landscape. **See** *Azalea*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_azalea

Vegetables: Numerous warm- and cool-season vegetables can be planted this month. Protect cold-tender veggies like tomatoes if a frost or freeze is predicted. **See** *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Palms: Give cold-damaged palms proper care to encourage their recovery. **See** *Cold Protection and Chilling Damage of Landscape Plants*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscapes_and_cold

Roses: Prune roses this month to remove dead and damaged canes (stems) and to improve the overall form. After pruning, fertilize and apply a fresh layer of mulch. Blooming will begin 8–9 weeks after pruning. **See** *Roses*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_rose



Figure 2. Rose
Credits: UF/IFAS

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** *Landscape Fertilization*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_fertilization

Lawn: Apply a preemergence 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** *Lawn Weeds*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_weeds

Citrus and other fruit trees: Fertilize; the amount of fertilizer and the frequency of applications depend on the age of the tree. **See** *Home Citrus Culture*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_citrus_home_citrus_culture and *Temperate Fruit for the Home Landscape*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_home_temperate_fruit

Trees: Don’t wait until hurricane season to check your trees. Hire an ISA-certified arborist to do an inspection. **See** International Society of Arboriculture: <http://isa-arbor.com/> and *Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning

March

What to Plant

Annuals: Replace declining winter annuals with varieties such as angelonia, gazania, impatiens, and salvia that will provide color now and into the summer months. **See Annuals:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: Plant caladiums for a showy tropical display all summer. **See Bulbs for Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers



Figure 3. Caladium
Credits: Tyler Jones, UF/IFAS

Herbs: In addition to their culinary value, many herbs are ornamental and attract butterflies to the garden. **See Herbs:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Warm-season crops, such as beans, peppers, squash, and others can be planted now. **See Vegetable Gardening in Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Azaleas: Prune azaleas just after plants finish blooming to shape or produce a fuller plant. **See Azalea:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_azalea

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/topic_tree_pruning

Palms and shrubs: Fertilize palms, azaleas, camellias, and other ornamental shrubs if needed. **See Landscape Fertilization:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_fertilization

Irrigation: Check sprinkler systems for efficient water use. **See Landscape Irrigation:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation

April

What to Plant

Annuals: New varieties of coleus and impatiens do well in sun or shade and provide vivid color for months. **See Annuals:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: Planting early-, mid-, and late-blooming varieties of daylily ensures months of color from these low-maintenance plants. **See Bulbs for Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers and **Daylilies:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_daylilies

Herbs: Try the wide assortment of basil available today, but select varieties that are resistant to downy mildew disease. **See Herbs:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Continue planting warm-season crops, such as beans, sweet corn, and squash. Mulch well to prevent weeds and provide water if the weather has been dry. **See Vegetable Gardening in Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Plant for butterflies: Plant flowers of different colors, shapes, sizes, and blooming seasons to provide nectar for adult butterflies and provide host plants for their caterpillars. **See Butterfly Gardening:** https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_butterfly_gardening

Pests: Monitor landscape plants weekly for aphids on tender new growth. **See Landscape Insect and Mite Pests:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_insect_pests_by_type and **Landscape Pest Management:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests

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 Landscape Pest Management:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests

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 Bulbs for Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

and *Perennial Landscape Plants*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_perennials



Figure 4. Lady beetle
Credits: UF/IFAS

Lawn insects: Rule out cultural problems, such as lack of water, that resemble insect damage before applying a pesticide. *See Insect Pests in Florida Lawns*: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_insect_pests

Lawns: Apply fertilizer after new growth has started, which is usually early April in north-central and central Florida. 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 Lawn Fertilizer*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_fertilization

Shrubs: Choose from a wide variety of shrubs to add to the landscape now. Remember Right Plant/Right Place and match the mature size with the location. *See Shrubs*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_shrubs and *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design*: https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_2015.pdf

Mulch: Add mulch to minimize weeds and conserve moisture during dry weather. Organic mulches add nutrients to the soil. *See Landscape Mulches*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_mulch

May

What to Plant

Annuals: Plants that can take summer heat include salvia, torenia, coleus, vinca, and ornamental pepper. *See Annuals*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: Some lilies do better when their roots are crowded. Try planting Amazon, Aztec, and Clivia lilies in containers; they bloom better when their roots are confined. *See Bulbs for Florida*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

Herbs: Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, and culantro. *See Herbs*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Southern favorites to plant now are okra, southern peas, and sweet potato. Heat-tolerant tropicals to consider are boniato and calabaza. *See Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Pests: Watch for thrips, scale, and mites on ornamental plants because they become more active in warm weather. *See Landscape Pest Management*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests

Gardenias: Distinguish between the normal yellowing of older leaves and the yellowing of new growth, which usually indicates a micronutrient deficiency. *See Gardenias at a Glance*: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep338>

Oleanders: Inspect chewed or ragged leaves for oleander caterpillars at work. *See Oleander Pest Management*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_oleander_ipm

Lawns: Watch for damage from chinch bugs in St. Augustinegrass and begin scouting for newly hatched mole crickets in bahiagrass lawns. *See Insect Pests in Florida Lawns*: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_insect_pests. May is usually a dry month; do not mistake irrigation problems with a pest infestation. *See Lawns and Drought*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawns_and_drought

Lawns: Prevent or minimize disease by following proper cultural practices. *See Turf Diseases*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_diseases

Tomatoes: Watch for pests, disease, and nutritional disorders on tomato plants. *See Home Tomato Gardening*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tomato_gardening



Figure 5. Tomato
Credits: Sally Lanigan, UF/IFAS

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 Annuals:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Palms: Summer's warm, rainy months are the perfect time to plant palms. Make sure not to cover the trunk with soil. **See Palms:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palms

Herbs: Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, and culantro. Pinch back regularly to prevent flowering and enhance branching. **See Herbs:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Plant okra, southern pea, calabaza, Malabar spinach, sweet potato, chayote, and boniato. **See Vegetable Gardening in Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

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 Pest Management:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests

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 or install a rain shut off device. **See Landscape Irrigation:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation

Propagation: Produce more plants by air layering, grafting, division, or cuttings. **See Seeds and Propagation (Land and Garden):** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_garden_propagation



Figure 6. Hibiscus
Credits: UF/IFAS

Palms and cycads: Watch for nutrient deficiencies or other problems and use an appropriate treatment. Keep lawn fertilizers away from the root zone. **See Palm Care:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_care

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/topic_tree_pruning

Fertilizer bans: Some municipalities in central Florida prohibit the application of fertilizer to lawns and/or landscape plants during the summer rainy season (June–September). Does such an ordinance exist in your area? <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FloridaFertilizerOrdinances.pdf?v=20190606>

Soil solarization: Clean up your vegetable garden and solarize the soil to reduce nematodes and other pests. **See Soil Solarization:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_soil_solarization

July

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: Summer annuals to plant now include celosia, coleus, torenia, and ornamental pepper. **See Annuals:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

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

Herbs: While summer is too hot to start herbs from seeds, many do well if started from small plants. **See Herbs:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

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 Palms:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palms

Vegetables: Start your Halloween pumpkins early this month, give them room to grow, and watch out for diseases. Okra and Southern peas can also be planted. **See Vegetable Gardening in Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do

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 Garden Pest Insects:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_garden_pest_insects

Fertilizer bans: Some municipalities in central Florida prohibit the application of fertilizer to lawns and/or landscape plants during the summer rainy season (June–September). Does such an ordinance exist in your area? <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FloridaFertilizerOrdinances.pdf?v=20190606>

Vegetable garden: Use summer heat to solarize the vegetable garden for fall planting. It takes at least 6 weeks to kill weeds, disease, and nematodes, so start now. **See Soil Solarization:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_soil_solarization

Azaleas: Prune no later than mid-July to protect developing buds for next spring's bloom. **See Azalea:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_azalea



Figure 7. Azaleas
Credits: UF/IFAS

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 Landscape Irrigation:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation

Pests on ornamental plants: Inspect the leaves of azaleas for damage from lacebugs. Look for tiny white dots on the upper surface and small black oil spots of excreta on the underside. Spray forcefully with water to help control this pest. **See Landscape Lace Bug Pests (Azalea Lace Bug)** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_lace_bug_pests

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 Home Citrus Culture:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_citrus_home_citrus_culture

August

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: The hottest days of summer limit planting now to heat-tolerant annuals, such as coleus, kalanchoe, and vinca. **See Annuals:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants



Figure 8. Vinca
Credits: Tyler Jones, UF/IFAS

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/topic_bulbous_flowers

Herbs: Herbs that are started from plants (not seeds) include bay laurel, ginger, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. **See Herbs:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Tomatoes, beans, carrots and others can be planted for the fall garden. **See** *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Palms: Check older fronds for yellowing because it may indicate a magnesium or potassium deficiency. Apply an appropriate palm fertilizer (see “Fertilizer bans” below). **See** *Palm Nutrition and Fertilization*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_nutrition

Ornamental plants: Fertilize plants that show signs of deficiencies. Rapid growth and leaching rains may result in nutrient deficiencies in some plants (see “Fertilizer bans” below). **See** *Nutrient Deficiencies (Landscape Plants)*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_nutrient_deficiencies_landscape_plants

Fertilizer bans: Some municipalities in central Florida prohibit the application of fertilizer to lawns and/or landscape plants during the summer rainy season (June–September). Does such an ordinance exist in your area? <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FloridaFertilizerOrdinances.pdf?v=20190606>

Vegetables: Solarize the vegetable garden in preparation for fall planting if not done in July. **See** *Soil Solarization*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_soil_solarization

Poinsettias: Pinch back poinsettias and mums before the end of the month to allow time for buds to form for winter bloom. **See** *Poinsettias*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_poinsettia

Annuals/Bedding plants: Remove spent blooms, cut back, and fertilize flowering annuals and perennials to extend the bloom season into the fall months. **See** *Annuals*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants and *Perennial Landscape Plants*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_perennials

September

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: If summer beds need refreshing, try ageratum, celosia, marigolds, and zinnia, for color into fall. **See** *Annuals*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: Add color, texture, and pattern to the garden with the many types of elephant ears that are available. **See** *Bulbs for Florida*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

Herbs: Plant herbs that tolerate the warm temperatures of early fall, such as Mexican tarragon, mint, rosemary, and basil. **See** *Herbs*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: It is hot, but numerous cool-season (as well as warm-season) crops can be planted. **See** *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening



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

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 Pests in Florida Lawns*: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_insect_pests

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** *Seeds and Propagation (Lawn and Garden)*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_garden_propagation

Irrigation: Check that irrigation systems are providing good coverage and operating properly before summer rains taper off. **See** *Landscape Irrigation*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation

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

Fertilizer bans: Some municipalities in central Florida prohibit the application of fertilizer to lawns and/or landscape plants during the summer rainy season (June–September). Does such an ordinance exist in your area? <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FloridaFertilizerOrdinances.pdf?v=20190606>

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 choice of varieties. See *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

October

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: Even though temperatures are still warm, begin planting for the cooler months ahead. Dianthus blue salvia and wax begonia are good annuals for the fall garden. See *Annuals*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

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/topic_bulbous_flowers

Herbs: A wide variety of herbs prefer cool, dry weather and should be planted now. Examples include parsley, cilantro, chives, garlic, dill, fennel, rosemary, and sage. See *Herbs*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Plant crops now that will grow and produce throughout the winter months. This includes broccoli, collards, kale, lettuce, and others. See *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Lawn weeds: Control winter weeds in lawns before they appear. Preemergence 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 *Lawn Weeds*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_weeds

Ornamental trees and shrubs: Fertilize plants that are not performing as desired. Controlled-release fertilizer provides nutrients over a longer period of time. See *Nutrient Deficiencies (Landscape Plants)*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_nutrient_deficiencies_landscape_plants

Lawn fertilization: Early October is the last time to fertilize the lawn. 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. See *Lawn Fertilizer*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_fertilization

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 *Strawberries*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_strawberries



Figure 10. Strawberries
Credits: UF/IFAS

Winter landscapes: Plant evergreen hollies; their bright berries add color to the landscape and provide a food source for birds. Water well when planting and mulch to minimize weeds. See *Holly*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_holly

Twig girdlers: Control twig girdlers by cleaning up and destroying fallen branches that young twig girdlers use for harborage. See *Twig Girdlers*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_twig_girdlers

November

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: Create a display of fall colors with cool-season plants. Some examples include pansy, viola, snapdragon, dianthus, cape daisy, and alyssum. See *Annuals*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

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



Figure 11. Crinum lily
Credits: UF/IFAS

Herbs: Continue planting herbs from seeds or plants. Herbs that perform well in central Florida's cool season include cilantro, parsley, sage, dill, fennel, rosemary, and thyme. See *Herbs*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Continue planting cool-season crops, such as beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, kale, lettuce, spinach, bok choy, and kohlrabi. See *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Perennials: Divide and replant overgrown perennials and bulbs now so that they establish before the cold weather arrives. See *Seeds and Propagation (Lawn and Garden)*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_garden_propagation

Lawn disease: Watch for brown patch and large patch. These fungal diseases cause areas of grass to turn brown. Because treatment is difficult, prevention with proper cultural practices is key. These diseases become active when the soil temperature, measured 2–4 in. deep, is between 65°F and 75°F; they go dormant when the weather warms in May. See *Turf Diseases*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_diseases

Scale insects: Take advantage of lower temperatures to apply horticultural oil sprays to control scale insects. Read and follow the label instructions because oil can damage plants when misapplied. See *Landscape Pest Management*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests

Irrigation: Turn off systems and water only if needed. Plants need less supplemental watering in cooler weather. See *Landscape Irrigation*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation

December

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: To add color to the winter garden, plant masses of petunia, pansy, and snapdragon. See *Annuals*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

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

Herbs: Plant herbs that thrive in cool weather. Some examples include parsley, thyme, sage, rosemary, and cilantro. See *Herbs*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Reliable cool-season vegetables to plant this month include celery, cauliflower, lettuce, cabbage, Swiss chard, and carrot. See *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

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*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_poinsettia



Figure 12. Poinsettia
Credits: Tyler Jones, UF/IFAS

Cold protection: Prepare now to protect tender plants should cold weather threaten. See *Cold Protection and Chilling Damage of Landscape Plants*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscapes_and_cold

Lawn disease: Continue to watch for brown patch and large patch, fungal diseases that cause areas of grass to turn brown. Because treatment is difficult, prevention with proper cultural practices is key. These diseases become

active when the soil temperature, measured 2–4 in. deep, is between 65°F and 75°F; they go dormant when the weather warms in May. **See** *Turf Diseases*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_diseases

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** *Houseplants*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_house_plants

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 and *Soil Testing (Home Lawn and Garden)*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_home_soil_testing

Compost/mulch: Use fallen leaves as mulch; they also provide the carbon ingredient needed for successful composting. **See** *Backyard Composting*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_home_composting and *Landscape Mulches*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_mulch

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** *Garden Pest Insects*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_garden_pest_insects and *Landscape Pest Management*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests

What to Do Every Month

- Adjust irrigation based on rainfall. **See** *Landscape Irrigation*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation
- Prune off dead blooms and seeds to encourage new flowers.
- Monitor plants for early signs of insects and disease.
- Plant trees, shrubs, and flowering annuals/perennials and water until established.
- **See** *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design* at <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/publications.htm>
- Mow lawns at recommended heights every 7–10 days during warm months and every 10–14 days in cool months: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh028>

UF/IFAS Resources for Gardeners

- UF/IFAS Publications (EDIS): <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- Florida-Friendly Landscaping™: <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- Gardening Solutions: <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- Florida Master Gardener Program: <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/>
- Living Green: <http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- UF Books, Flash Cards, Apps and other gardening resources: <http://ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- Vegetable planting dates and other vegetable gardening information are also available as a free mobile app called “Florida Fresh”

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