

North Florida Gardening Calendar¹

Sydney Park Brown²

January

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: Cool-season annuals include pansy, viola, petunia, and snapdragon. **See *Annuals*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: Crinum, agapanthus, and gloriosa lily can be planted now. Mulch to protect from cold temperatures. **See *Bulbs for Florida*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

Camellias: Select and plant camellia this month. Visit local nurseries now for the best selection of colors and forms. **See *Camellias*:** http://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. Continue planting cool-season crops such as broccoli, kale, carrots, and lettuce. **See *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

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



Figure 1. Camellia
Credits: UF/IFAS

Cold protection: Be ready to cover tender plants to minimize damage. Frost or freezes are likely this month and next. **See *Cold Protection and Chilling Damage of Landscape Plants*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscapes_and_cold

Irrigation: Water plants if temperatures remain higher than normal and rainfall is scarce. **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

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Arbor Day: Celebrate Florida Arbor Day (the third Friday of January) by planting a tree in your yard or community. Consider a hurricane-resistant tree, such as live oak, bald cypress, cabbage palm, or southern magnolia. **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 now 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*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning

February

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: Plants that can take a chill include dianthus, pansy, viola, and dusty miller. **See *Annuals*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: Try amaryllis, rain lily, crinum, and agapanthus. Provide adequate water for establishment and protect them from cold with mulch. **See *Bulbs for Florida*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

Flowering plants: Many trees and shrubs will bloom this month, including red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and star magnolia (*Magnolia kobus* var. *stellata*). **See *Southern Tree Fact Sheets*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/departement_envhort-trees

Vegetables: Plant potatoes now. Start with healthy seed pieces purchased from a local nursery or online seed catalog. Continue to plant cool-season crops. Warm-season crops like tomatoes and pepper can be planted at the end of February, but be prepared to protect them from a frost or freeze. **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

Citrus: Avoid pruning until spring. Cold temperatures may still injure citrus. **See *Home Citrus Culture*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_citrus_home_citrus_culture

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 *Roses*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_rose



Figure 2. Rose
Credits: UF/IFAS

Shrubs: Make certain that you know the height and spread of any shrub you plan to install. Not all shrubs are suitable for planting next to homes or under windows. **See *Shrubs*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_shrubs and ***The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design*:** <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/publications.htm>

Lawn: Apply a preemergence weed killer (not a “weed and feed” fertilizer) when temperatures rise to 65°F for 4–5 days to prevent warm-season weeds. Timing is important for good control. **See *Lawn Weeds*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_weeds

Citrus and other fruit trees: Fertilize; the frequency and amount of fertilizer 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 take care of 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/Bedding Plants: Dianthus and other cool-season annuals continue to flourish. Consider planting warm-season performers such as angelonia, salvia, impatiens, stokes aster, pentas, and zinnia at the end of the month. **See Annuals:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: Plant dahlia, canna, and gloriosa lily bulbs for spring and summer flowering. Provide stakes as needed to support growth. **See Bulbs for Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

Herbs: Consider growing edible ginger. Plant rhizomes in well-drained soil in full to part sun. **See Ginger:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_ginger and **Herbs:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Begin planting warm-season crops, such as beans, tomatoes, squash, and corn, early in the month for late spring harvest. Protect from frost. **See Vegetable Gardening in Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening



Figure 3. Tomato
Credits: Sally Lanigan, UF/IFAS

What to Do

Azaleas: Prune azaleas when they have finished blooming to reduce their size and improve their form. **See Azalea:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_azalea

Shrubs and trees: Prune when the dormant season ends and new growth begins. **See Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning

Palms and shrubs: Fertilize palms (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep261>), azaleas, camellias, and other ornamental shrubs if needed. Choose a fertilizer in which at least 30%

of its nitrogen is slow release. **See Palm Nutrition and Fertilization:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_nutrition and **Landscape Fertilization:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_fertilization

Irrigation: Check your sprinkler system for problems such as broken or misaligned spray heads. **See Landscape Irrigation:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation

April

What to Plant

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

Bulbs: This is an ideal time to plant many bulbs. Consider blood lily, caladium, or canna, which make beautiful cut flowers. **See Bulbs for Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers



Figure 4. Yellow canna
Credits: UF/IFAS

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

Vegetables: Continue planting warm-season crops such as beans, corn, okra, and others. Mulch well to prevent weeds and provide irrigation if rainfall is lacking. Apply fertilizer as needed to keep plants productive. **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 for aphids that feed on tender new growth. **See *Landscape Pest Management***: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests

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

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

Lawn problems: Before applying an insecticide, rule out cultural issues, such as lack of water, and confirm the presence of damaging insects. **See *Insect Pests in Florida Lawns***: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_insect_pests

Lawns: Apply fertilizer after new growth has started—usually early April in north-central Florida and mid-April for north Florida and the Panhandle. Apply a second application of preemergence herbicide to control later-germinating weeds like chamberbitter. **See *Lawn Fertilizer***: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_fertilization and ***Turfgrass Weeds***: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_weeds

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://fl.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/publications.htm>

Trees: Consider planting a spring-blooming tree, such as fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), Carolina Silverbell (*Halesia carolina*), or redbud (*Cercis canadensis*). **See *Southern Tree Fact Sheets***: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/department_envhort-trees

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

May

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: Plants that can take summer heat include salvia, angelonia, pentas, coleus, periwinkle (vinca), coreopsis, and ornamental pepper. **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 *Daylilies***: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_daylilies and ***Bulbs for Florida***: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

Herbs: Continue to plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, oregano, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. **See *Herbs***: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Swiss chard will take the heat as well as okra, southern pea, and sweet potato. **See *Vegetable Gardening in Florida***: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do

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

Gardenias: Yellowing of older leaves is usually normal; yellowing of new growth 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

Lawn insects: 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

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

New plants: Produce more plants by air layering, grafting, division, or cuttings. Some plants can be propagated by seed; collect seeds once blooms are spent and seeds have set. *See Seeds and Propagation (Lawn and Garden):* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_garden_propagation



Figure 5. Hibiscus
Credits: UF/IFAS

Lawn Mowing: Encourage healthy growth and discourage insects, weeds, and diseases by mowing correctly. *See Lawn Mowing:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_mowing

June

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: Annuals that can take full sun during hot summer months include celosia, impatiens, coreopsis, portulaca, periwinkle (vinca), coleus, and caladium. *See Annuals:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Perennials: Add bright color to the landscape with perennials. *See Perennial Landscape Plants:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_perennials

Palms: Summer's warm, rainy weather is the perfect time to plant palms. Avoid planting palms too deep. *See Palms:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palms

Herbs: Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, culantro, and rosemary. 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, chayote, boniato, and sweet potato. Remove tomato plants and other vegetables as they become problem-prone and unproductive. *See Vegetable Gardening in Florida:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening



Figure 6. Eggplant
Credits: Tyler Jones, UF/IFAS

What to Do

Pests: Monitor the landscape weekly for harmful insects. Knowing which insects commonly attack a plant can aid in identification and treatment. *See Landscape Pest Management:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests

Irrigation: If rainfall has been lacking, watch for drought stress and water as needed. *See Landscape Irrigation:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation

Palms and cycads: Watch for nutrient deficiencies or environmental problems with palms and correct using an appropriate treatment. *See Palm Nutrition:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_nutrition

Summer-flowering shrubs: Prune lightly during the warmer months to encourage more branching and blooming. Azaleas can still be pruned in June without removing next spring's flower buds. *See Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning

Fertilizer bans: Certain municipalities in 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>

Lawns: Yellow and brown patches in the lawn can be caused by insects, disease, or lack of water. Take time to determine the cause so your remedy is effective. Rejuvenate areas where grass does not grow well by replacing it with a more adapted turf or groundcover. *See Insect Pests in Florida Lawns:* https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_insect_pests, *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection*

& Landscape Design: <https://fsl.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/publications.htm>, and *Ground Covers*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_ground_covers

July

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: As the heat continues, water annuals when needed. See *Annuals*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants



Figure 7. Mexican sage
Credits: Tyler Jones, UF/IFAS

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

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 tomato and Halloween pumpkin seeds! Cucumbers, peppers, and southern peas can also be planted now. Watch for insects and disease symptoms. 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 and a 10' buffer area around it. First, rule out disease or sprinkler malfunction. See *Your Florida Lawn*: <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/yourfloridalawn/>

Fertilizer bans: Certain municipalities in 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://fsl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FloridaFertilizerOrdinances.pdf?v=20190606>

Vegetable garden: Use summer heat to solarize garden soil for fall planting. It takes 4–6 weeks to kill weeds, disease, and nematodes, so start now. See *Soil Solarization*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_soil_solarization

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

Irrigation: Install an inexpensive rain shutoff device to conserve water and save money. If one is already installed, check that it is operating properly. See *Landscape Irrigation*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation

Peach and nectarine trees: Consider planting one of the many new peach and nectarine cultivars that grow well in north Florida. Newly planted trees should be fertilized now. Apply ½ lb per tree of 8-8-8 fertilizer. See *Temperate Fruit for the Home Landscape*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_home_temperate_fruit

August

What to Plant

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

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: Heat-tolerant herbs that can be planted from plants (not seeds) include bay laurel, ginger, mint, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. See *Herbs*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Many cool-season crops can be started now as well as a final crop of warm-season vegetables such as lima beans, cucumbers, eggplant, and peppers. Tomatoes can also be planted for the fall garden. See *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening



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

What to Do

Lawns: Determine the cause of any damage to the lawn so the proper remedy is used. Damage from insects, disease, or irrigation failure can produce similar symptoms. Use a sharp mower blade and only remove a third of the grass blade to reduce stress on the lawn. *See Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_insect_management, *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design:* <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/publications.htm>, and *Ground Covers:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_ground_covers

Fertilizer bans: Certain municipalities in 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>

Palms: Check older palm fronds for yellowing, because it may indicate a magnesium or potassium deficiency. Apply an appropriate palm fertilizer. *See Palm Nutrition and Fertilization:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_nutrition

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

Ornamental plants: Rapid growth and leaching rains may result in nutrient deficiencies in some plants. *See Nutrient Deficiencies (Landscape Plants):* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_nutrient_deficiencies_landscape_plants

Annuals and perennials: Remove spent blooms, cut back, and fertilize flowering annuals and perennials to extend the season into the fall months. *See Annuals:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscaping_plants

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

September What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: Try ageratum, celosia, zinnia, and blue daze for color into fall. *See Annuals:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscaping_plants

Bulbs: Add color, texture, and pattern to the garden with the many varieties of elephant’s ear (*Alocasia* spp.), calla, narcissus, and zephyr lily. *See Elephant’s Ear:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_elephants_ear and *Bulbs for Florida:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

Herbs: Plant cilantro, parsley, and lemongrass. Mint, oregano, and thyme should be planted in containers as they tend to spread. Mexican tarragon, mint, rosemary, and basil. *See Herbs:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: It’s time to establish strawberry plants. As the weather cools, plant broccoli, carrot, cabbage, collards, and many others. *See Vegetable Gardening in Florida:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening



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

Wildflowers: Sow wildflower seed for blooms next year. *See Wildflowers:* https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_wildflowers

What to Do

Lawn insects: 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 those 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

Lawns: The last fertilizer application should be around the middle or end of September in north Florida. Choose a fertilizer with no or very little phosphorus unless a soil test indicates a need for it. A fertilizer containing controlled-release nitrogen yields longer-lasting results. See *Lawn Fertilizer*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_fertilization

Fertilizer bans: Certain municipalities in 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>

Lawn weeds: Maintain healthy grass because it is the best defense against weeds. Avoid “weed and feed” products; only apply herbicides to areas with weed infestations. See *Lawn Weeds*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_weeds

Garden for hummingbirds: Plant firebush, firespike, russelia, and other plants to supply nectar for visiting hummingbirds. See *Hummingbird Gardening*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_hummingbird_gardening

Vegetable garden: 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 offer more varieties to choose from. For a list of Florida-proven performers, see *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

October

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: Plant digitalis (foxglove), petunia, and shasta daisy in the fall garden. See *Annuals*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: Fragrant daffodil varieties for north Florida include ‘Erlicheer’, ‘Carlton’, ‘Fortune’, ‘Silver Chimes’, ‘Thalia’, and ‘Sweetness’. See *Bulbs for Florida*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

Herbs: Some to try from plants or seed include dill, fennel, oregano, parsley, thyme, and sage. See *Herbs*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Plant bulbing onions, salad crops such as arugula, lettuce, and spinach, as well as numerous other cool-season crops. See *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Lawns: Control winter weeds in lawns before they appear. Preemergent herbicides must be applied at the right time to be effective. Apply when nighttime temps 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

Winter landscapes: Plant evergreen hollies; their bright berries add color to the landscape when other plants have died back for the winter and provide food for wildlife. Water well when planting and mulch to minimize weeds. See *Holly*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_holly

Pine needles: Gather pine needles that are dropping and use them as natural mulch. See *Landscape Mulches*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_mulch

Strawberries: Set strawberry plants in the garden or in large containers. Either way, water daily until plants are established. See *Strawberries*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_strawberries



Figure 10. Strawberry
Credits: UF/IFAS

Lawns: Lawns start to lose color as the weather cools. If a green winter lawn is desired, overseed with annual ryegrass when daytime temps are in the low 70s, but keep in mind that watering and mowing will be required.

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

November What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: Pansy, viola, and chrysanthemum create great fall color. **See *Annuals*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: Bulbs to plant include amaryllis, crinum, and daylily. Plant spider lily in partial shade. Plants produce foliage in winter, and beautiful red flowers emerge in late summer. **See *Bulbs for Florida*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers



Figure 11. Crinum lily
Credits: UF/IFAS

Herbs: Herbs that prefer cooler, dryer weather include cilantro, dill, fennel, parsley, sage, and thyme. **See *Herbs*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: A long list of cool-season crops can be planted now including broccoli, cabbage, kale, and lettuce. **See *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Citrus: Protect small citrus trees if freezing temperatures are predicted by watering well at least a day before the freeze. You may also use covers that extend to the

ground for protection. **See *Cold Protection and Chilling Damage of Landscape Plants*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscapes_and_cold

Scale insects: Apply dormant oil sprays to control scale insects on trees and shrubs. **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

Flowering trees: Consider planting an ornamental Taiwan cherry (*Prunus campanulata*). Late winter brings pink blooms. **See *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design*:** <https://fl.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/publications.htm>

Birds: Make a small brush pile from plant debris in the back of the yard for birds. **See *Wild Birds*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_wild_birds

Camellias: Add some of the new cultivars for bright spots of color in winter. Disbudding, or removing some buds now, ensures larger blooms later. **See *Camellias*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_camellia

December What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: Masses of petunia, pansy, snapdragon, lobelia, alyssum, and viola add color in winter. **See *Annuals*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: Amaryllis 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: Some examples of cool-weather herbs include parsley, thyme, sage, dill, fennel, garlic, comfrey, and cilantro. **See *Herbs*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Reliable cool-season vegetables include cabbages, collards, beets, and broccoli. **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. With proper care, this colorful plant gives weeks of color. See *Poinsettia*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_poinsettia



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

Cold damage: Wait until warm weather returns to cut back cold-damaged plants. See *Cold Protection and Chilling Damage of Landscape Plants*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscapes_and_cold

Vegetable garden: Make sure that seeds and transplants are properly spaced for good development of tubers and vegetables. Add fertilizer as needed. See *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

Houseplants: Inspect regularly for pests on indoor plants. Keep in mind that adequate light is a key factor to ensuring that indoor plants thrive. When bringing plants inside to protect from cold, isolate them from existing houseplants to avoid spreading pests. 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 to provide the carbon ingredient needed for successful composting and also to make a good mulch. See *Backyard Composting*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_home_composting and *Landscape Mulches*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_mulch

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

What to Do Every Month

- Adjust irrigation based on rainfall. 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.
- The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design at <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/publications.htm>
- Warm Months—Mow lawns at recommended heights: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh028>

UF Resources for Gardeners

- UF/IFAS Publications (EDIS): <http://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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