

# South Florida Gardening Calendar<sup>1</sup>

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## January

### What to Plant

**Annuals/Bedding plants:** Plants that can be added to the garden during the coolest months include begonia, browallia, lobelia, dianthus, dusty miller, and nicotiana. *See Annuals:* [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_annual\\_landscape\\_plants](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants)

**Bulbs:** Winter is a great time to plant bulbs that will bloom in the spring. Some examples include Clivia lily, crinum, and agapanthus. *See Bulbs for Florida:* [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_bulbous\\_flowers](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers)

**Herbs:** Many herbs will thrive now that temperatures are cooler, including tarragon, thyme, dill, fennel, and any of the mints. *See Herbs:* [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_herbs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs)

**Vegetables:** Many vegetables can be planted this time of year. This the last month to plant Irish potatoes, beets, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale, mustard, and turnips. *See Vegetable Gardening in Florida:* [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)

### What to Do

**Landscape:** It is a good time to plant woody shrubs. Water frequently to get new plantings off to a good start. *See The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design:* [http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN\\_Plant\\_Selection\\_Guide\\_v090110.pdf](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_v090110.pdf) and *Shrubs:* [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_shrubs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_shrubs)



Figure 1. Cattleya orchid  
Credits: UF/IFAS

**Irrigation:** Water plants if temperatures remain higher than normal and rainfall is scarce. *See Landscape Irrigation:* [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning)

**Arbor Day:** Celebrate Florida Arbor Day (the 3rd 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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_arbor_day)

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**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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_crapemyrtle)

**Cold protection:** Bring sensitive plants like orchids inside if a frost or freeze is predicted. Thoroughly water and cover sensitive plants in the landscape 12–24 hours before a freeze. See *Cold Protection and Chilling Damage of Landscape Plants*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscapes\\_and\\_cold](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscapes_and_cold)

**Pests:** Apply horticultural oil to citrus, shrubs, and deciduous fruit trees while plants are dormant to control scale. Apply copper spray to mangos after bloom. See *Landscape Pest Management*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_pests](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests)

## February What to Plant

**Annuals/Bedding plants:** Good performers in South Florida's mild winter include impatiens, verbena, dianthus, strawflower, and lobelia. See *Annuals*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_annual\\_landscape\\_plants](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants)

**Bulbs:** Many bulbs can be planted now. Divide large, crowded clumps. Provide adequate water for establishment. Some examples include Amazon lily, crinum, and agapanthus. See *Bulbs for Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_bulbous\\_flowers](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers)

**Groundcovers:** Consider replacing areas of grass with drought-tolerant, low-maintenance groundcovers. See *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design*: [http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN\\_Plant\\_Selection\\_Guide\\_v090110.pdf](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_v090110.pdf) and *Ground Covers*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_ground\\_covers](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_ground_covers)

**Vegetables:** Winter vegetable gardening is in full swing. Last month to plant cantaloupes, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, peppers, spinach, and tomatoes for a late spring harvest. Protect crops in the unlikely event of a frost or freeze. See *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)

## What to Do

**Lawns:** Fertilize lawn grasses to improve color or coverage. Choose a fertilizer (not a “weed and feed”) with no or very little phosphorus unless a soil test indicates the need for it. A fertilizer with controlled-release nitrogen provides

longer-lasting results. See *Lawn Fertilizer*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_lawn\\_fertilization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_fertilization)



Figure 2. Eggplant  
Credits: Tyler Jones, UF/IFAS

**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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_rose)

**Shrubs and palms:** Fertilize shrubs and palms 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. Delay pruning any cold-damaged branches until new growth starts. See *Palm Nutrition and Fertilization*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_palm\\_nutrition](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_nutrition) and *Landscape Fertilization*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_fertilization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_fertilization)

**Lawns:** Apply a preemergence weed killer (not a “weed and feed”) to lawns late 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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_weeds)

**Avocados and mangos:** Disease-susceptible varieties of avocado and mango may require applications of copper fungicide. See *Avocado*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_avocado](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_avocado) and *Mango*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_mango](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_mango)

**Citrus:** Fertilize now if not done in January. Frequency and amount of fertilization depend on the age of the tree. See *Home Citrus Culture*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_citrus\\_home\\_citrus\\_culture](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_citrus_home_citrus_culture)

## March What to Plant

**Annuals/Bedding Plants:** Plant heat-tolerant annuals, such as crossandra, gazania, melampodium, and zinnia

that will last into fall. **See** *Annuals*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_annual\\_landscape\\_plants](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants)

**Bulbs:** Plant gladiola corms 6 inches apart and 4 inches deep; stake as they grow. Plant caladium for a showy tropical display all summer. **See** *Bulbs for Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_bulbous\\_flowers](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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs)

**Vegetables:** This is the last month to plant arugula, beans, cantaloupe, carrots, celery sweet corn, endive, okra, radish, squashes, Swiss chard, and watermelon. **See** *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)

## What to Do

**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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning)

**Mulch:** Add mulch to minimize weeds and conserve moisture during dry weather. **See** *Landscape Mulches*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_mulch](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_mulch)

**Lawns:** Fertilize lawns this month if not done in February. **See** *Lawn Fertilizer*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_lawn\\_fertilization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_fertilization)

**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 Pest Management*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_pests](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests)

**Fertilize:** Fertilize palms and ornamental shrubs if not done last month. **See** *Palm Nutrition and Fertilization*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_palm\\_nutrition](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_nutrition) and *Landscape Fertilization*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_fertilization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_fertilization)

**Lawns:** Identify damaging insects and spot treat early to prevent widespread damage. **See** *Turfgrass Pest Insects*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_turf\\_pest\\_insects](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_pest_insects)

**Tropical and subtropical fruits:** Add variety and interest to the landscape and table with exotic fruits. **See** *Tropical Fruit for the Home Landscape*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_home\\_tropical\\_fruit](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_home_tropical_fruit)

## April

### What to Plant

**Annuals/Bedding plants:** Plant heat-tolerant annuals, such as coleus, vinca, and portulaca. **See** *Annuals*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_annual\\_landscape\\_plants](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants)

**Bulbs:** Cannas thrive in the heat of summer. New varieties have colorful leaves as well as flowers. **See** *Bulbs for Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_bulbous\\_flowers](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers)

**Herbs:** Some to start now include basil, coriander, cumin, and mint. **See** *Herbs*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_herbs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs)

**Vegetables:** Beans, Chinese cabbage, Southern peas, and sweet potatoes can still be planted. Mulch beds well and monitor irrigation if the weather is dry. **See** *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)

### What to Do

**Pests:** Monitor insect activity and learn which bugs damage plants and which do not. **See** *Landscape Pest Management*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_pests](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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_beneficial_insects)

**Tomatoes:** Watch for pests, disease, and nutritional disorders on developing tomato plants. **See** *Home Tomato Gardening*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_tomato\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tomato_gardening)



Figure 4. Lady beetle  
Credits: UF/IFAS

**Palms:** Identify and treat environmental and nutritional disorders in palm trees. See *Palm Care*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_palm\\_care](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_care)

**Oleanders:** Inspect chewed or ragged leaves for oleander caterpillars at work. See *Oleander Pest Management*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_oleander\\_ipm](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_oleander_ipm)

**Fruits:** Propagate fruit crops by air layering and grafting. See *Propagating Fruits in Florida*: [http://www.solutions-foryourlife.com/hot\\_topics/lawn\\_and\\_garden/propagating\\_fruits.shtml](http://www.solutions-foryourlife.com/hot_topics/lawn_and_garden/propagating_fruits.shtml)

**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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers) and *Perennial Landscape Plants*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_perennials](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_perennials)

**Shrubs:** Choose from a wide variety of shrubs to add to the landscape now. See *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design*: [http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN\\_Plant\\_Selection\\_Guide\\_v090110.pdf](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_v090110.pdf) and *Shrubs*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_shrubs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_shrubs)

## May

### What to Plant

**Annuals/Bedding plants:** Plants that can take summer heat include coleus, salvia, torenia, wax begonia, and ornamental pepper. See *Annuals*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_annual\\_landscape\\_plants](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 to increase blooming. See *Bulbs for Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_bulbous\\_flowers](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers)

**Herbs:** Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, ginger, cumin, summer savory, and rosemary. See *Herbs*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_herbs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs)

**Vegetables:** Sweet potatoes, boniato, hot peppers, and tropical “spinach” such as Sisso, Malabar, and New Zealand can be planted now. See *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)



Figure 5. Canna  
Credits: UF/IFAS

### 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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests)

**Gardenias and ixora:** Distinguish between the normal yellowing of older leaves and the yellowing of new growth, which usually indicates a micronutrient deficiency. See *Nutrient Deficiency (Landscape Plants)*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_nutrient\\_deficiencies\\_landscape\\_plants](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_nutrient_deficiencies_landscape_plants) and *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](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 *Turfgrass Pest Insects*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_turf\\_pest\\_insects](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_pest_insects)

**Tomatoes:** Watch for pests, disease, and nutritional disorders on tomato plants. **See** *Home Tomato Gardening*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_tomato\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tomato_gardening)

**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*: <http://isa-arbor.com/> and *Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_tree\\_pruning](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning)

**Lawns:** Prevent or minimize disease by following proper cultural practices when caring for lawns. **See** *Turf Diseases*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_turf\\_diseases](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_diseases)

## June

### What to Plant

**Annuals/Bedding Plants:** 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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants)



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

**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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palms)

**Herbs:** Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, ginger, summer savory, cumin, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. **See** *Herbs*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_herbs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs)

**Vegetables:** Plant tropical vegetables, such as boniato, calabaza, and chayote this month. **See** *South Florida Tropicals*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_series\\_south\\_florida\\_tropicals](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_series_south_florida_tropicals) and *Chayote*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_chayote](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_chayote)

### 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](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. **See** *Landscape Irrigation*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_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 (Lawn and Garden)*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_garden\\_propagation](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_garden_propagation)

**Palms and cycads:** Watch for nutrient deficiencies or other problems and use an appropriate treatment. **See** *Palm Care*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_palm\\_care](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_care)

**Pruning:** Lightly prune summer-flowering shrubs, like hibiscus, oleander, and ixora, during the warmer months to increase blooming. **See** *Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_tree\\_pruning](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning)

**Lawns:** Check frequently for damaged areas and keep insects in check with early treatment. Determine whether yellow and brown lawn patches are caused by chinch bugs, disease, or lack of water. Take time to determine the cause so your remedy is effective. Rejuvenate areas where grass does not grow well by replacing it with versatile groundcovers. **See** *Garden Pest Insects*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_garden\\_pest\\_insects](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_garden_pest_insects), *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design*: [http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN\\_Plant\\_Selection\\_Guide\\_v090110.pdf](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_v090110.pdf), and *Ground Covers*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_ground\\_covers](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_ground_covers). Summer rains usually begin this month as do lawn fertilizer restrictions in some areas of the state. Check with your municipality to see if this applies to your area. **See** *Lawn Fertilizer*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_lawn\\_fertilization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_fertilization)

**Soil solarization:** Clean up your vegetable garden and solarize the soil for 4–6 weeks to kill pests and disease. **See** *Soil Solarization*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_soil\\_solarization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_soil_solarization)

**Lightning safety:** Be safe outdoors during storm season.

## 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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants)

**Bulbs:** Butterfly lily and gladiolus are bulbs that can be planted during the middle of summer. **See Bulbs for Florida:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_bulbous\\_flowers](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers)

**Herbs:** While summer is too hot to start herbs from seeds, many, such as oregano and mint, do well if started from small plants. **See Herbs:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_herbs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs)

**Vegetables:** Plant tropical vegetables, such as boniato, calabaza, and chayote this month. **See South Florida Tropicals:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_series\\_south\\_florida\\_tropicals](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_series_south_florida_tropicals) and *Chayote*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_chayote](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_chayote)

**Palms:** Continue planting palms while the rainy season is in full swing. Support large palms with braces for 6–8 months after planting. Do not drive nails directly into a palm trunk. **See Palms:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_palms](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palms)

### What to Do

**Trees:** Prepare for hurricane season by checking trees for damaged or weak branches and pruning if needed. Hire an ISA-certified arborist. **See International Society of Arboriculture:** <http://isa-arbor.com/> and *Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_tree\\_pruning](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning)

**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 Turfgrass Pest Insects:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_turf\\_pest\\_insects](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_pest_insects)

**Vegetable garden:** Use summer heat to solarize the vegetable garden for fall planting. It takes 4–6 weeks to kill weeds, disease, and nematodes, so start now. **See Soil Solarization:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_soil\\_solarization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_soil_solarization)

**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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation)

**Pests on ornamental plants:** Inspect the leaves of ornamental plants for small white dots that may indicate lace bugs at

work. Spray forcefully with water to help control this pest. **See Landscape Pest Management:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_pests](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests) and *Landscape Lace Bug Pests*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_lace\\_bug\\_pests](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_lace_bug_pests)

**Tropical fruit trees:** Check for damage to fruit or leaves and take action to minimize the effect of insects and/or disease on developing fruit or the overall health of the tree. **See Tropical Fruit:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_tropical\\_fruit](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tropical_fruit)



Figure 7. Oranges  
Credits: UF/IFAS

## August

### What to Plant

**Annuals/Bedding plants:** The hottest days of summer limit planting to heat-tolerant vinca, coleus, salvia, and celosia. **See Annuals:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_annual\\_landscape\\_plants](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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers)

**Herbs:** Herbs that can be planted from plants (not seeds) include bay laurel, ginger, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. **See Herbs:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_herbs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs)

**Vegetables:** Start planting eggplant, okra, peppers, pumpkin, squashes, and tomatoes for the fall garden. **See Vegetable Gardening in Florida:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)

### What to Do

**Lawns:** Fertilize lawns if needed. **See Lawn Fertilizer:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_lawn\\_fertilization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_fertilization)



Figure 8. Mexican sage  
Credits: Tyler Jones, UF/IFAS

**Palms:** Check older fronds for yellowing as 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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_nutrition)

**Vegetables:** Solarize the vegetable garden for 4–6 weeks in preparation for fall planting if not done in July. *See Soil Solarization:* [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_poinsettia)

**Ornamental plants:** Fertilize those plants that show signs of deficiencies. 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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_nutrient_deficiencies_landscape_plants) and *Landscape Fertilization:* [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_fertilization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_fertilization)

**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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants) and *Perennial Landscape Plants:* [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_perennials](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_perennials)

## September

### What to Plant

**Annuals/Bedding plants:** If summer beds need refreshing, try scarlet sage, nasturtium, celosia, and wax begonia for color into fall. *See Annuals:* [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_annual\\_landscape\\_plants](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants)

**Bulbs:** Plant gladiolus every 2 weeks to stagger blooming. Stake each plant. *See Bulbs for Florida:* [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_bulbous\\_flowers](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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs)

**Vegetables:** September opens the door for more vegetables to plant. *See Vegetable Gardening in Florida:* [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)



Figure 9. Cabbage, cauliflower, and broccoli  
Credits: Tyler Jones, UF/IFAS

**Shrubs:** Consider placing native shrubs, like beautyberry, marlberry, firebush, and dahoon holly, where you can view the birds that enjoy them. *See The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design:* [http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN\\_Plant\\_Selection\\_Guide\\_v090110.pdf](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_v090110.pdf) and *Shrubs:* [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_shrubs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_shrubs)

## What to Do

**Lawns:** 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 *Turfgrass Pest Insects***: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_turf\\_pest\\_insects](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_pest_insects)

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

**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 *Seeds and Propagation (Lawn and Garden)***: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_garden\\_propagation](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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation)

**Citrus:** Fertilize citrus with a balanced fertilizer either this month or in October. Use controlled-release nitrogen because rain will not leach it from the soil too quickly. **See *Home Citrus Culture***: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_citrus\\_home\\_citrus\\_culture](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_citrus_home_citrus_culture)

## October

### What to Plant

**Annuals/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 *Annuals***: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_annual\\_landscape\\_plants](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants)

**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***: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_bulbous\\_flowers](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers)

**Herbs:** A wide range of herbs can be planted from seed or transplants this month. Some to try include dill, fennel, parsley, and cilantro. **See *Herbs***: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_herbs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs)

**Vegetables:** Easy crops that can be grown now include beans, broccoli, carrots, collards, lettuce, green onions, peppers, radishes, spinach, and tomatoes. **See**

*Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)

### What to Do

**Lawns:** 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. **See *Lawn Weeds***: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_lawn\\_weeds](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_weeds)

**Ornamental trees and shrubs:** Fertilize plants that are not performing as desired. 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 *Palm Nutrition and Fertilization***: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_palm\\_nutrition](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_nutrition) and ***Landscape Fertilization***: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_fertilization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_fertilization)

**Lawn fertilization:** Fertilize lawns if needed. **See *Lawn Fertilizer***: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_lawn\\_fertilization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_fertilization)



Figure 10. Strawberries  
Credits: UF/IFAS Photo by Thomas Wright

**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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_strawberries)

**Palms:** Palms have unique nutritional needs. Select a fertilizer that contains controlled release nitrogen, potassium and magnesium. **See *Palm Nutrition and Fertilization***: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_palm\\_nutrition](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_nutrition)

**Oleanders:** Control the oleander caterpillar, which is a year-round resident in South Florida, without harming



beneficial insects by pruning off infested leaves or spraying with BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). See *Oleander Pest Management*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_oleander\\_ipm](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_oleander_ipm)

**Twig girdlers:** Control twig girdlers by cleaning up and destroying fallen branches that young twig girdlers can use for harborage. See *Twig Girdlers*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_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 impatiens, strawflower, cape daisy, and pansy. See *Annuals*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_annual\\_landscape\\_plants](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, and the many varieties of elephant's ear. See *Bulbs for Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_bulbous\\_flowers](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers)

**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*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_herbs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs)

**Vegetables:** Lots of choices exist for November including beans, broccoli, kale, snow/English peas, and strawberries. See *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)



Figure 11. Hydroponic lettuce and herbs  
Credits: UF/IFAS

## What to Do

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

**Lawns:** Watch for brown patch and large patch until May. These fungal diseases cause areas of grass to turn brown. Since treatment is difficult, prevention with proper cultural practices is key. See *Turf Diseases*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_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. See *Landscape Pest Management*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_pests](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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation)

**Poinsettias:** Watch for hornworms on poinsettias planted in the landscape. This pest can quickly defoliate a plant. Handpick or treat only the infested area. See *Poinsettias*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_poinsettia](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_poinsettia)

## December

### What to Plant

**Annuals/Bedding plants:** To add color to the winter garden, plant masses of begonia, impatiens, and geranium. See *Annuals*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_annual\\_landscape\\_plants](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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers)

**Herbs:** Plant herbs that thrive in cool weather. Some examples include parsley, thyme, sage, dill, fennel, and cilantro. See *Herbs*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_herbs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs)

**Vegetables:** Reliable cool-season vegetables to plant this month include broccoli, carrots, kale, green onions, and others. See *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)

## What to Do

**Poinsettias:** Enjoy one of the most popular 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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_poinsettia)



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

**Irrigation:** Irrigate if the weather has been warm and dry. Monitor plants for signs of stress and water only as needed. See *Landscape Irrigation*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_irrigation](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation)

**Lawns:** Continue monitoring for brown patch and large patch fungal disease until May. Proper cultural practices are key for control. See *Turf Diseases*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_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](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](http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/agriculture/soil_testing.html) and *Landscape and Soil Test (Home Lawn and Garden)*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_home\\_soil\\_testing](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_home_soil_testing)

**Compost/mulch:** Use fallen leaves and other plant debris 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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_home_composting) and *Landscape Mulches*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_mulch](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 *Landscape Pest Management*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_pests](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests)

**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*: [http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/giam/potpourri/holiday/xmastree\\_care.html](http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/giam/potpourri/holiday/xmastree_care.html)

**Protect:** Protect tender orchid, impatiens, and tomato from falling temperatures. See *Cold Protection and Chilling Damage of Landscape Plants*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscapes\\_and\\_cold](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscapes_and_cold)

## What to Do Every Month

- Adjust irrigation based on rainfall. [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_irrigation](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation)
- Prune off dead blooms and seeds to encourage new flowers.
- Monitor for 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: [http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN\\_Plant\\_Selection\\_Guide\\_v090110.pdf](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_v090110.pdf)
- 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™: <http://fyn.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/>
- Planting dates and other vegetable gardening information are also available as a free mobile app called 'Florida Fresh.' Access an app provider for your mobile phone or download it from <http://m.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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