UF IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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Central Florida Gardening Calendar[1]

Sydney Park Brown and Tiare Saracino[2]

Sydney Park Brown and Tiare Saracino

January

What to Plant

Annuals/Perennials/Wildflowers: Plants that can be added to the garden during the coolest months include alyssum, dianthus, petunia, viola, and snapdragon. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Annuals: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/annuals
- Ask IFAS: Perennials: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/perennials
- Florida Wildflower Foundation: https://www.flawildflowers.org/

Bulbs: Crinum, agapanthus, and gloriosa lily bulbs can be planted now. Provide a layer of mulch to protect from cold temperatures. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Bulbs for Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous_flowers
- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden: Mulches: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-mulches

Camellias: Select and plant camellias this month. Visit local nurseries now for the best selection of colors and forms. **See**



Figure 1. Camellia
Credit: UF/IFAS

- Ask IFAS: Camellia: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/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, including broccoli, English peas, kale, carrots, and lettuce. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Vegetable Gardening in Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Fruit Trees: Plant temperate fruit trees now to give their roots time to develop before the warm, dry spring months. Prune and fertilize existing trees. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden: Temperate Fruit: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-and-garden-temperate-fruit

Cold protection: Frost or freezes are likely 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**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Cold Protection and Chilling Damage: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-and-garden-cold

Irrigation: Irrigate lawns and landscape plants minimally. This is their dormant season. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Irrigation: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn_and_garden_care_irrigation

Shrubs and trees: Prune non-spring flowering shrubs and trees this month to improve form. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Pruning: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-and-garden-care-pruning

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

- Ask IFAS: Arbor Day in Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/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**

- Ask IFAS: Crapemyrtle: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/crapemyrtle

Pests: Apply horticultural oil to citrus, shrubs, camellias, and deciduous fruit trees while plants are dormant to control scale. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Pest Management: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-pest-management

February

What to Plant

Annuals/Perennials/Wildflowers: Plants that perform better in the cooler months include petunia, pansy, verbena, dianthus, strawflower, and lobelia. Protect from frosts and freezing temperatures. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Annuals: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/annuals
- Ask IFAS: Perennials: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/perennials
- Florida Wildflower Foundation: https://www.flawildflowers.org/

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**

- Ask IFAS: Bulbs for Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous_flowers
- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden: Mulches: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-mulches

Azaleas: With azaleas in full bloom this month, now is a great time to select varieties to add to the landscape. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Azalea: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/azalea

Vegetables: Numerous warm- and cool-season vegetables can be planted this month. Protect cold-tender veggies if a frost or freeze is predicted. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Vegetable Gardening in Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Palms: Give cold-damaged palms proper care to encourage their recovery. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Cold Protection and Chilling Damage: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-and-garden-cold
- Ask IFAS: Palm Care: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/palm-care

Citrus: Check citrus trees for scab disease. Apply a copper fungicide when new leaves appear and again when two-thirds of the flower blossoms have fallen. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Home Citrus Culture: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/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**



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

- Ask IFAS: Roses: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/roses
- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden: Mulches: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-mulches

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**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn & Garden Care: Fertilization: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-fertilization
- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden: Mulches: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-mulches

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**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Weed Management: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-weed-management

Citrus and other fruit trees: Fertilize now if not done in January. Frequency and amount of fertilization depend on the age of the tree. Plant tropical and sub-tropical fruit trees once the danger of frost has passed. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Home Citrus Culture: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/home_citrus_culture
- Ask IFAS: Tropical and Subtropical Fruits: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/tropical_fruit

March

What to Plant

Annuals/Perennials/Wildflowers: Replace declining winter annuals with varieties such as angelonia, coreopsis, gazania, and salvia that will provide color now and into the summer months. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Annuals: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/annuals
- Ask IFAS: Perennials: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/perennials
- Florida Wildflower Foundation: https://www.flawildflowers.org/

Bulbs: Plant caladium for a showy tropical display all summer. **See**



Figure 3. Caladium
Credit: UF/IFAS Photo by Tyler Jones

- Ask IFAS: Bulbs for Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous_flowers

Herbs: In addition to their culinary value, many herbs are ornamental and attract butterflies to the garden. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Herbs: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/herbs

Vegetables: Warm-season crops, such as beans, peppers, tomatoes, squash, and eggplant can be planted now. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Vegetable Gardening in Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Azaleas: Prune azaleas just after plants finish blooming to shape or produce a fuller plant. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Azalea: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/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**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Pruning: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-and-garden-care-pruning

Palms and shrubs: Fertilize palms, azaleas, camellias, and other ornamental shrubs if needed. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn & Garden Care: Fertilization: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-fertilization

- Ask IFAS: Palm Nutrient Management: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/palm-nutrient-management

Irrigation: Check sprinkler systems for efficient water use. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Irrigation: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn_and_garden_care_irrigation

April

What to Plant

Annuals/Perennials/Wildflowers: New varieties of coleus do well in sun or shade and provide vivid colors and patterns for months. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Annuals: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/annuals
- Ask IFAS: Perennials: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/perennials
- Florida Wildflower Foundation: https://www.flawildflowers.org/

Bulbs: Planting early-, mid-, and late-blooming varieties of daylily ensures months of color from these low-maintenance plants. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Bulbs for Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous_flowers

Herbs: Add nasturtiums to your herb garden. The leaves and flowers add a peppery zest to salads. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Herbs: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/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**

- Ask IFAS: Vegetable Gardening in Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Pests: Monitor landscape plants weekly for aphids on tender new growth. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Pest Management: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-pest-management

Beneficials: Identify and conserve beneficial insects. Some insects should be encouraged in your yard! **See**



Figure 4. Lady beetle
Credit: UF/IFAS Photo

- Ask IFAS: Beneficial Insects: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/beneficial_insects

Flowering plants: Check for thrips if leaves and/or flowers of gardenias and roses are damaged. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Pest Management: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-pest-management

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**

- Ask IFAS: Bulbs for Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous_flowers
- Ask IFAS: Perennials: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/perennials

Lawn insects: Rule out cultural problems, such as lack of water, that resemble insect damage before applying a pesticide. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Pest Management: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-pest-management

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**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn Fertilizer: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn_fertilizer

Shrubs: Choose from a wide variety of shrubs to add to the landscape now. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Shrubs: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/shrubs
- Florida-Friendly Plant Guide: https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/fflifasufledu/docs/FFL-Plant-Guide_v030624_web.pdf

Mulch: Add mulch to minimize weeds and conserve moisture during dry weather. Organic mulches add nutrients to the soil. See

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden: Mulches: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-mulches

May

What to Plant

Annuals/Perennials/Wildflowers: Plants that can take summer heat include salvia, torenia, wax begonia, coleus, and ornamental pepper. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Annuals: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/annuals
- Ask IFAS: Perennials: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/perennials
- Florida Wildflower Foundation: https://www.flawildflowers.org/

Bulbs: Some lilies do better when their roots are crowded. Try planting Amazon, Aztec, and Clivia lilies in containers to increase blooming. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Bulbs for Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous_flowers

Herbs: Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Herbs: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/herbs

Vegetables: Southern favorites to plant now are okra, southern peas, and sweet potato. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Vegetable Gardening in Florida: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Pests: Watch for thrips, scale, and mites on ornamental plants because they become more active in warm weather. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Pest Management: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-pest-management

Gardenias: Distinguish between the normal yellowing of older leaves and the yellowing of new growth, which usually indicates a micronutrient deficiency. **See**

- Ask IFAS publication:*Gardenias at a Glance*: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/EP338

Oleanders: Inspect chewed or ragged leaves for oleander caterpillars at work. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Oleander Pest Management: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/oleander-pest-management

Lawns: Watch for damage from chinch bugs in St. Augustinegrass and begin scouting for newly hatched mole crickets in bahiagrass lawns. May is usually a dry month; do not mistake irrigation problems with a pest infestation. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/insect_management_in_your_florida_lawn

Lawns: Prevent or minimize disease by following proper cultural practices. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Turfgrass Diseases: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/turfgrass-diseases

Tomatoes: Watch for pests, disease, and nutritional disorders on tomato plants. **See**



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

- Ask IFAS: Tomato Gardening: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/tomato-gardening

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/
- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Pruning: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-and-garden-care-pruning

June

What to Plant

Annuals/Perennials/Wildflowers: Annuals that can take full sun during the increasingly hot summer months include celosia, portulaca, vinca, and some coleus. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Annuals: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/annuals
- Ask IFAS: Perennials: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/perennials
- Florida Wildflower Foundation: https://www.flawildflowers.org/

Palms: Summer's warm, rainy months are the perfect time to plant palms. Make sure not to cover the trunk with soil. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Palm Care: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/palm-care

Herbs: Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. Pinch back regularly to prevent flowering and enhance branching. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Herbs: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/herbs

Vegetables: Plant okra, southern pea, calabaza, Malabar spinach, and sweet potato. It is too late to plant tomatoes. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Vegetable Gardening in Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/vegetable_gardening
- Ask IFAS: Tropical Vegetables: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/tropical-vegetables

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**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Pest Management: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-pest-management

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**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Irrigation: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn_and_garden_care_irrigation

Propagation: Produce more plants by air layering, grafting, division, or cuttings. **See**



Figure 6. Hibiscus
Credit: UF/IFAS Photo

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Plants: Seeds and Propagation: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-propagation

Palms and cycads: Watch for nutrient deficiencies or other problems and use an appropriate treatment. Keep lawn fertilizers away from the root zone. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Palm Nutrient Management: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/palm-nutrient-management

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**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Pruning: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-and-garden-care-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 an ordinance exist in your area? **See**

- Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program Fertilizer Ordinances App: https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/resources/apps/fertilizer-ordinances/

Soil solarization: Clean up your vegetable garden and solarize the soil to kill pests and disease. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Soil Solarization: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/soil_solarization

July

What to Plant

Annuals/Perennials/Wildflowers: Summer annuals to plant now include celosia, coleus, torenia, and ornamental pepper. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Annuals: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/annuals
- Ask IFAS: Perennials: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/perennials
- Florida Wildflower Foundation: https://www.flawildflowers.org/

Bulbs: Butterfly lily and gladiolus can be planted during the middle of summer. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Bulbs for Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous_flowers

Herbs: While summer is too hot to start herbs from seeds, many do well if started from small plants. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Herbs: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/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**

- Ask IFAS: Palm Care: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/palm-care

Vegetables: Start your Halloween pumpkins this month but watch out for mildew diseases. Okra and Southern peas can also be planted. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Vegetable Gardening in Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/vegetable_gardening

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/
- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Pruning: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-and-garden-care-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**

- Ask IFAS: Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/insect_management_in_your_florida_lawn
- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Pest Management: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-pest-management

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 an ordinance exist in your area? **See**

- Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program Fertilizer Ordinances App: https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/resources/apps/fertilizer-ordinances/

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**

- Ask IFAS: Soil Solarization: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/soil_solarization

Azaleas: Prune no later than mid-July to protect developing buds for next spring's bloom. **See**



Figure 7. Azaleas
Credit: UF/IFAS

- Ask IFAS: Azalea: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/azalea

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**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Irrigation: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn_and_garden_care_irrigation

Pests on ornamental plants: Inspect the leaves of azaleas and ornamental plants for small white dots that may indicate lace bugs at work. Spray forcefully with water to help control this pest. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Pest Management: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-pest-management

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**

- Ask IFAS: Home Citrus Culture: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/home_citrus_culture

August

What to Plant

Annuals/Perennials/Wildflowers: The hottest days of summer limit planting now to heat-tolerant annuals, such as coleus, kalanchoe, and vinca. **See**



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

- Ask IFAS: Annuals: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/annuals
- Ask IFAS: Perennials: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/perennials
- Florida Wildflower Foundation: https://www.flawildflowers.org/

Bulbs: Aztec lily, butterfly lily, walking iris, and spider lily can be planted any time of the year, even late summer. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Bulbs for Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous_flowers

Herbs: Herbs that can be planted from plants (not seeds) include bay laurel, ginger, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Herbs: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/herbs

Vegetables: Tomatoes, beans, carrots and others can be planted for the fall garden. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Vegetable Gardening in Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Palms: Check older fronds for yellowing as it may indicate a magnesium or potassium deficiency. Apply an appropriate palm fertilizer. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Palm Nutrient Management: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/palm-nutrient-management

Vegetables: Solarize the vegetable garden in preparation for fall planting if not done in July. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Soil Solarization: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/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**

- Ask IFAS: Poinsettia: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/poinsettia

Ornamental plants: Fertilize plants that show signs of deficiencies. Rapid growth and leaching rains may result in nutrient deficiencies in some plants. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn & Garden Care: Fertilization: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-fertilization

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 an ordinance exist in your area? **See**

- Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program Fertilizer Ordinances App: https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/resources/apps/fertilizer-ordinances/

Annuals/Bedding plants: Remove spent blooms, cut back, and fertilize flowering annuals and perennials to extend the bloom season into the fall months. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Annuals: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/annuals
- Ask IFAS: Perennials: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/perennials

September

What to Plant

Annuals/Perennials/Wildflowers: If summer beds need refreshing, try ageratum, coleus, celosia, zinnia, and wax begonia for color into fall. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Annuals: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/annuals
- Ask IFAS: Perennials: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/perennials
- Florida Wildflower Foundation: https://www.flawildflowers.org/

Bulbs: Add color, texture, and pattern to the garden with the many varieties of elephant's ear that are available. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Bulbs for Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous_flowers

Herbs: Plant herbs that tolerate the warm temperatures of early fall, such as Mexican tarragon, mint, rosemary, and basil. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Herbs: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/herbs

Vegetables: It is hot, but numerous cool-season (as well as warm-season) crops can be planted. **See**



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

- Ask IFAS: Vegetable Gardening in Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/vegetable_gardening

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**

- Ask IFAS: Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/insect_management_in_your_florida_lawn

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**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Plants: Seeds and Propagation: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-propagation

Irrigation: Check that irrigation systems are providing good coverage and operating properly before summer rains taper off. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Irrigation: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn_and_garden_care_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 as rains will leach it from the soil too quickly. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Home Citrus Culture: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/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 an ordinance exist in your area? **See**

- Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program Fertilizer Ordinances App: https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/resources/apps/fertilizer-ordinances/

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 of choices. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Vegetable Gardening in Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/vegetable_gardening

October

What to Plant

Annuals/Perennials/Wildflowers: Even though temperatures are still warm, begin planting for the cooler months ahead. Dianthus, petunia, and pansy are good annuals for the fall garden. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Annuals: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/annuals
- Ask IFAS: Perennials: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/perennials
- Florida Wildflower Foundation: https://www.flawildflowers.org/

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**

- Ask IFAS: Bulbs for Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous_flowers

Herbs: A wide range of herbs can be planted from seeds or plants this month. Some examples include parsley, cilantro, chives, garlic, and sage. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Herbs: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/herbs

Vegetables: Plant crops now that will grow and produce throughout the winter months. This includes broccoli, collards, kale, lettuce, and others. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Vegetable Gardening in Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/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**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Weed Management: https://easkis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-weed-management

Ornamental trees and shrubs: Fertilize plants that are not performing as desired. Controlled-release fertilizer provides nutrients over a longer period of time. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn & Garden Care: Fertilization: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-fertilization

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**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Plants: Nutrient Deficiencies (Landscape Plants): https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-nutrient-deficiencies

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**



Figure 10. Strawberries
Credit: UF/IFAS

- Ask IFAS publication: *Growing Strawberries in the Florida Home Garden*: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS403

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

- Ask IFAS: Holly: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/holly

Twig girdlers: Control twig girdlers by cleaning up and destroying fallen branches that young twig girdlers can use for harborage. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Twig Girdlers: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/twig-girdlers

November

What to Plant

Annuals/Perennials/Wildflowers: Create a display of fall colors with cool-season plants. Some examples include pansy, viola, snapdragon, dianthus, cape daisy, and alyssum. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Annuals: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/annuals
- Ask IFAS: Perennials: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/perennials
- Florida Wildflower Foundation: https://www.flawildflowers.org/

Bulbs: Many bulbs like to get their start in cool weather. Bulbs to plant this month include amaryllis, crinum, and daylily. **See**



Figure 11. Crinum lily
Credit: UF/IFAS

- Ask IFAS: Bulbs for Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous_flowers

Herbs: Continue planting herbs from seeds or plants. A wide variety of herbs prefer cool, dry weather, including cilantro, parsley, sage, and thyme. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Herbs: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/herbs

Vegetables: Continue planting cool-season crops, such as beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, kale, and lettuce. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Vegetable Gardening in Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/vegetable_gardening

What to Do

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

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Plants: Seeds and Propagation: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-propagation

Lawn disease: Watch for brown patch and large patch. These fungal diseases cause areas of grass to turn brown. Since 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 and go dormant when the weather warms in May. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Turfgrass Diseases: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/turfgrass-diseases

Scale insects: Take advantage of lower temperatures to apply horticultural oil sprays to control scale insects. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Pest Management: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-pest-management

Irrigation: Turn off systems and water only if needed. Plants need less supplemental watering in cooler weather. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Irrigation: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn_and_garden_care_irrigation

Poinsettias: Watch for hornworms on poinsettias planted in the landscape. This pest can quickly defoliate the plant; handpick or treat only the infested area. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Poinsettia: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/poinsettia

December

What to Plant

Annuals/Perennials/Wildflowers: To add color to the winter garden, plant masses of petunia, pansy, and snapdragon. **See**

- *Ask IFAS: Annuals*: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/annuals
- Ask IFAS: Perennials: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/perennials
- Florida Wildflower Foundation: https://www.flawildflowers.org/

Bulbs: Amaryllis is a popular plant for the holiday season. It can be forced to bloom now or planted outdoors for spring blooms. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Bulbs for Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous_flowers

Herbs: Plant herbs that thrive in cool weather. Some examples include parsley, thyme, sage, dill, fennel, and cilantro. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Herbs: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/herbs

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

- Ask IFAS: Vegetable Gardening in Florida: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/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**



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

- Ask IFAS: Poinsettia: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/poinsettia

Cold protection: Prepare now to protect tender plants should cold weather threaten. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Cold Protection and Chilling Damage: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-and-garden-cold

Lawn disease: Continue to watch for brown patch and large patch, fungal diseases that cause areas of grass to turn brown. Since treatment is difficult, prevention with proper cultural practices is key. These diseases become active when the soil temperature, measured 2–4 in. deep, is between 65°F and 75°F and go dormant when the weather warms in May. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Turfgrass Diseases: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/turfgrass-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**

- Gardening Solutions: Houseplants: https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/houseplants/
- Ask IFAS: House Plants: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/house_plants
- Solutions for Your Life: Florida House Plants: https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn-and-garden/florida-house-plants/

Soil test: Consider performing a soil test if plants do not perform as desired or if new plantings are planned. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Soil Testing: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-and-garden-care-soil-testing

Compost/mulch: Use fallen leaves to provide the carbon ingredient needed for successful composting and also to make a good mulch. **See**

- Ask IFAS: Composting: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/composting
- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden: Mulches: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-mulches

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**

- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Pest Insects: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/garden_pest_insects
- Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Pest Management: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-pest-management

What to Do Every Month

- Adjust irrigation based on rainfall. See Ask IFAS: Lawn and Garden Care: Irrigation: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn_and_garden_care_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.
- See 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: Ask IFAS Publication: *Mowing Your Florida Lawn*: https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/LH028

UF Resources for Gardeners

- UF/IFAS Publications (Ask IFAS/EDIS): https://ask.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/

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