### What to Plant

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

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

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

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

### What to Do

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

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

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

**Houseplants:** Inspect regularly for pests on indoor plants. Keep in mind that plant specific temperature, light, and humidity are key to ensuring that indoor plants thrive. See: *Managing Pests of Indoor Plantscapes*

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

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

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

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

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

### What to Do Every Month

- Adjust irrigation based on rainfall.
- Deadhead flowers to encourage new blooms.
- Monitor the garden for insects and disease.
- Plant trees, shrubs, and perennials and water until established.
- **Mow lawns** at recommended heights:
  - St. Augustine & Bahia: 3-4”
  - Centipede: 1.5-2.0”
  - Dwarf St. Augustine: 2.5”
  - Zoysiagrass

### UF Resources For Gardeners

- UF/IFAS Publications (EDIS)  
  [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/)
- Florida-Friendly Landscaping  
  [http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/)
- Solutions For Your Life  
  [http://solutionsforyourlife.com](http://solutionsforyourlife.com)
- Gardening in a Minute Radio Program  
  [http://gardeninginaminute.com](http://gardeninginaminute.com)
- Florida Master Gardener Program  
  [http://gardeningssolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/](http://gardeningssolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/)
- Living Green  
  [http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/)