



Florida Gardening Calendar

Comments or suggestions?
Dr. Sydney Park Brown
spbrown@ufl.edu

February

Central Florida Edition

What to Plant

Bedding Plants: Plants that perform better in the cooler months include petunia, pansy, verbena, dianthus, strawflower, and lobelia. Protect from frosts and freezing temperatures. **See:** [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

Bulbs: Many bulbs can be planted now. Provide adequate water to establish and protect from cold weather with mulch. Some to try are Amazon Lily, crinum, and agapanthus. **See:** [Bulbs for Florida](#)

Azaleas: With azaleas in full bloom this month, now is a great time to select varieties to add to the landscape. **See:** [Azaleas at a Glance](#)

Vegetables: Begin planting warm season crops this month. Bean, pepper, cucumber, tomato, and squash can be started while temperatures are cool. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

What to Do

Cold damage to Palms: If cold weather has damaged palms, proper care may prevent loss of the palm and encourage recovery. **See:** [Cold Damage on Palms](#)

Citrus: Now is a good time to check citrus trees for scab disease. Apply a copper fungicide when new leaves appear and again when 2/3 of the flower blossoms have fallen. **See:** [Citrus Problems in the Home Landscape](#)

Prune Roses: Roses should be pruned this month to reduce and improve the overall form. After pruning, fertilize and apply a fresh layer of mulch. Blooming will begin eight to nine weeks after pruning. **See:** [Growing Roses in Florida](#)

Shrubs: Now is the time to fertilize shrubs. Spread fertilizer evenly over the soil surface and water in. Follow with a fresh layer of mulch, which will conserve moisture and reduce weeds. **See:** [Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes](#)

Lawn Weeds: Apply a pre-emergent 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:** [Weed Management in Home Lawns](#)

Fertilize Citrus and other Fruit Trees: If not done in January, fertilize trees now. Frequency and amount of fertilization depends on the age of the tree. **See:** [Citrus Culture in the Home Landscape](#)
[Deciduous Fruit for the Home Garden in Central Florida](#)

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/>
- Florida-Friendly Landscaping
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- Solutions For Your Life
<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>
- *Gardening in a Minute* Radio Program
<http://gardeninginaminute.com>
- Florida Master Gardener Program
<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/>
- Living Green
<http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/>