



Florida Gardening Calendar

Comments or suggestions?
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February

North Florida Edition

What to Plant

Bedding Plants: Since temperatures can drop to freezing this month, new additions to the garden must be able to withstand cold. Plants that can take a chill include dianthus, pansy, viola, and dusty miller. **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 dahlias, crinum, and agapanthus. **See:** [Bulbs for Florida](#)

Flowering Plants: Many trees and shrubs will be in bloom including [red maple](#), spirea, and [star magnolia](#)

Potatoes: Plant potatoes now. Make sure you buy healthy seed pieces from a local nursery and plant 3" deep. Do not add lime to potato planting bed. **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: Cold temperatures may still injure citrus. Avoid pruning until spring. **See:** [Citrus Culture in the Home Landscape](#)

Prune Roses: Roses should be pruned this month to remove damaged canes 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: Make certain that you know the height and spread of any shrubs you plan to install. Not all shrubs are suitable for planting next to homes or under windows. **See:** [The Florida-Friendly Landscaping Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design](#) [Planting Shrubs in Florida Landscapes](#)

Lawn Weeds: After temps rise to 65°F for 4-5 days, apply a pre-emergent weed killer (NOT a weed & feed fertilizer) to lawns this month to prevent warm season weeds. Timing is important for good control. **See:** [Weed Management in Home Lawns](#)

Fertilize Citrus and other Fruit Trees: If not done in January, fertilize now. Frequency and amount of fertilization depends on the age of the tree. **See:** [Cultural Practices for Dooryard Citrus](#) [Deciduous Fruit for North 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/>