**February South Florida Edition**

### What to Plant

**Bedding Plants:** Good performers in South Florida’s mild winter include impatiens, verbena, dianthus, strawflower, and lobelia. See: Gardening with Annuals in Florida

**Bulbs:** Many bulbs can be planted now. Divide large crowded clumps. Provide adequate water to establish. Some to try are Amazon lily, crinum, and agapanthus. See: Bulbs for Florida

**Ground Covers:** Consider replacing areas of grass with drought tolerant, low maintenance ground covers. See: Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design

**Vegetables:** Begin planting warm season crops this month. Sweet potato, cantaloupe, eggplant and squash can be started while temperatures are cool. See: Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide

### What to Do

**Lawns:** Fertilize lawns this month. Choose one (not a weed & feed) with no or very little phosphorus unless a soil test indicates the need for it. A fertilizer with controlled-release nitrogen will give longer lasting results. See: Your Florida Lawn

- Bahia grass for Florida Lawns
- Bermudagrass for Florida Lawns
- Centipedegrass for Florida Lawns
- Zoysiagrass for Florida Lawns

**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

**Fertilize Shrubs and Palms:** Spread fertilizer evenly over the soil surface and water in. Follow with a fresh layer of mulch to conserve moisture and reduce weeds. Hold off pruning cold-damaged branches until new growth starts. 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

**Spray:** When avocados and mango have lost 2/3 of blossoms, spray copper fungicide to control anthracnose. See: Diseases of Avocado in Florida

**Some Common Diseases of Mango in Florida**

**Fruits:** If not done in January, fertilize fruit trees including citrus now. See: Citrus Culture in the Home Landscape - Tropical and Subtropical Fruit Crops for the Home Landscape: Alternatives to Citrus

### 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/

Comments or suggestions?

Dr. Sydney Park Brown
spbrown@ufl.edu