January South Florida Edition

What to Plant

Bedding Plants: Plants that can be added to the garden during the coolest months include begonia, browallia, lobelia, dianthus, dusty miller, and nicotiana. See: Gardening with Annuals in Florida

Bulbs: Winter is a great time to plant bulbs that will bloom this spring. Some to try are Clivia lily, crinum, and agapanthus. See: Bulbs for Florida

Herbs: Many herbs will thrive now that temperatures are cooler, including tarragon, thyme, dill, fennel, and any of the mints. See: Herbs in the Florida Garden

Vegetables: Continue planting cool season crops including beet, cabbage, turnip, lettuce, and broccoli. See: Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide

What to Do

Rejuvenate the landscape: After the danger of freezing temperatures, it’s a good time to plant woody shrubs. Water frequently to get new plantings off to a good start. See: Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design Planting Shrubs in Florida Landscapes

Irrigation: Plants may need water if temperatures remain higher than normal and rainfall is scarce. See: Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes

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

Arbor Day: Florida observes Arbor Day on the 3rd Friday of January. To celebrate, plant a tree in your yard or community. See: Arbor Day Foundation - Florida

Crapemyrtle: While crapemyrtles do not require pruning, removing seed pods, crossing branches and small twiggy growth improves the appearance and form of the plant. See: Crapemyrtle in Florida

Cold Protection: If a frost or freeze is predicted, bring sensitive plants like orchids inside. Water sensitive plants in the landscape thoroughly 12-24 hours before a freeze and cover. See: Cold Protection of Ornamental Plants

Cold Damage on Palms

Pests: To control scale on citrus, shrubs, and deciduous fruit trees, apply horticultural oil while plants are dormant. Apply copper spray to mangos after bloom. See: Insect Management in the Home Garden

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://flyn.ifas.ufl.edu/
- Solutions For Your Life http://solutionsforyourlife.com
- Gardening in a Minute Radio Program http://gardeninginaminute.com
- Florida Master Gardener Program http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/
- Living Green http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/

Comments or suggestions?
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