



# Florida Gardening Calendar

**Comments or suggestions?**

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**July**

## North Florida Edition

### What to Plant

**Bedding Plants:** Coleus, crossandra, ornamental pepper, and tropical milkweed planted now should last until November. As the heat continues, keep annuals evenly moist. **See:** [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

**Bulbs:** Butterfly lily, gladiolus, and society garlic are bulbs that can be planted during the middle of summer. **See:** [Bulbs for Florida](#)

**Vegetables:** Watermelon, pepper, okra, southern pea, and eggplant can be planted now as long as water is provided during dry spells. Watch for caterpillars and aphids on leaves and fruit. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

**Palms:** Continue planting palms while the rainy season is in full swing. Support large palms with braces for 6-8 months after planting. Nails should not be driven directly into a palm trunk. **See:** [Palms for North Florida](#) [Transplanting Palms in the Landscape](#)

### What to Do

**Lawn insects:** Lawn pests can be a problem this time of year. Before treating, find out if an insect is the culprit and treat only the affected area. Rule out disease or sprinkler malfunction. **See:** [Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn](#) [Turfgrass Disease Management Your Florida Lawn](#)

**Solarize the vegetable garden.** Use summer heat as a tool in preparing the vegetable garden for fall planting. It takes four to six weeks to kill weeds, disease and nematodes, so start now. **See:** [Introduction to Soil Solarization](#)

**Azaleas:** Any pruning should be done by mid-July to protect developing buds for next spring's bloom. **See:** [Azaleas at a Glance](#)

**Irrigation:** An inexpensive rain shut off device can save money by overriding an irrigation system when it rains. If one is already installed, check that it is operating properly. **See:** [Residential Irrigation System Rainfall Irrigation Shutoff Devices](#)

**Trees:** Prepare for hurricane season by checking trees for damaged or weak branches and prune if needed. Hire an ISA certified arborist. **See:** [International Society of Arboriculture](#) [Pruning Young Trees](#) [Pruning Mature Trees](#)

**Pests on Ornamental Plants:** Caterpillars may be present on trees and shrubs. Large trees can normally withstand caterpillar feeding but specimen shrubs may need treatment if damage is extensive. **See:** [Caterpillars that Defoliate Trees and Shrubs](#)

**Peach and nectarine trees:** Many new cultivars of peaches and nectarines grow well in North Florida. Newly planted trees should be fertilized now. Apply 1/2 pound per tree of 8-8-8 fertilizer. **See:** [Deciduous Fruits for the Home Gardener in North Florida and North 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://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/>
- Living Green  
<http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/>