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

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://gardeningssolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/
- Living Green http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/