**What to Plant**

**Annuals:** Plant heat tolerant annuals for color such as crossandra, gazania, melampodium, and zinnia, that will last into fall. See: Gardening with Annuals in Florida

**Bulbs:** Plant gladiola corms 6" apart and 4" deep and stake as they grow. Plant caladiums for a showy tropical display all summer. See: Bulbs for Florida

**Herbs:** In addition to their culinary value, many herbs are ornamental and attract butterflies to the garden. See: Herbs in the Florida Garden

**Vegetables:** Warm season crops, such as sweet corn, cucumber, watermelon, and pepper, should be planted now for late spring harvest. See: Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide

**What to Do**

**Trees and shrubs:** Prune when new growth begins after the end of the dormant season. To guard next season’s blooms, begin pruning after the last flowers fade but before new buds set. See: Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs

**Mulch:** Renew or add mulch in landscape beds to reduce weeds and retain moisture. See: Landscape Mulches: What Are The Choices in Florida?

**Fertilize lawns:** If not done in February, fertilize lawns this month. See:
- Your Florida Lawn
- Bahiagrass for Florida Lawns
- Bermudagrass for Florida Lawns
- St. Augustinegrass for Florida Lawns
- Centipedegrass for Florida Lawns
- Zoysiagrass for Florida Lawns

**Pests:** Monitor landscape plants for insects, especially for the presence of aphids on tender new growth. Insects become more active during warm weather. See: Landscape Integrated Pest Management Ornamental Insects Sheet 2

**Fertilize:** palms and ornamental shrubs if not done last month. Choose a fertilizer based on each plant’s needs. See: Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes

**Examine lawns for problems:** Identify damaging insects and spot treat early to prevent widespread damage. Rule out cultural problems, such as irrigation failure, before treatment. See: Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn

**Tropical and subtropical fruits:** Add variety and interest to the landscape and table with exotic fruits. See: 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/](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/)
- Florida-Friendly Landscaping [http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/)
- Solutions For Your Life [http://solutionsforyourlife.com](http://solutionsforyourlife.com)
- Gardening in a Minute Radio Program [http://gardeninginaminute.com](http://gardeninginaminute.com)
- Florida Master Gardener Program [http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/](http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/)
- Living Green [http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/)

Comments or suggestions? Dr. Sydney Park Brown spbrown@ufl.edu