May

North Florida Edition

What to Plant

**Annuals:** Plants that can take summer heat include salvia, angelonia, wax begonia, and ornamental pepper. See: [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

**Bulbs:** Planting early-, mid-, and late-blooming varieties of *daylily* ensures months of color from these low maintenance plants. See: [Bulbs for Florida](#)

**Herbs:** Continue to plant heat loving herbs, including basil, oregano, sage, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. See: [Herbs in the Florida Garden](#)

**Vegetables:** Southern favorites to plant now are okra, southern pea, and sweet potato. See: [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

What to Do

**Pests:** Harmful insects become more active as the weather warms. Watch for thrips, scale, and mites on ornamental plants. See: [Insects 1](#) [Insects 2](#)

**Gardenias:** While some yellowing of older leaves is normal, yellowing of new growth usually indicates a micronutrient deficiency. See: [Gardenias](#)

**Oleanders:** Chewed or ragged leaves indicate oleander caterpillars at work. See: [Oleander Caterpillar](#)

**Lawn insects:** Watch for damage from chinch bugs in St. Augustine and begin scouting for newly hatched mole crickets in Bahia lawns. See: [Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn](#)

**Tomatoes:** Watch for pests, disease, and nutritional disorders on tomato plants. See: [Tomatoes in the Florida Garden](#)

**Lawn nutrition:** If not done last month, apply a fertilizer (not a weed & feed) without phosphorus unless soil test indicates the need for it. A fertilizer containing controlled-release nitrogen will give longer lasting results. See: [Your Florida Lawn](#)

**Propagation:** Now is a good time to produce more plants by air layering, grafting, division, or cuttings. See: [Propagation of Landscape Plants](#)

**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](#)

**Prevent lawn pests:** Discourage insects, weeds, and disease by mowing correctly. See: [Mowing Your Florida Lawn](#)

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](http://gardeninginaminute.com) Radio Program
- 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