**May**

### South Florida Edition

#### What to Plant

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

**Bulbs:** Some lilies do better when their roots are crowded. Try planting Amazon, Aztec, and Clivia lilies in containers to increase blooming. See: [Bulbs for Florida](#)

**Herbs:** Plant heat loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, ginger, cumin, summer savory, 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 Sheet 1](#)

**Gardenias and Ixora:** While some yellowing of older leaves is normal, yellowing of new growth usually indicates a micronutrient deficiency. See: [Gardenias Nutrient Deficiency Symptoms of Woody Ornamental Plants in South Florida](#)

**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](#)

**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](#)

**Lawn nutrition:** If Bahia lawns are yellowing, iron can correct the problem. See: [Bahiagrass for Florida Lawns](#)

**Prevent lawn diseases:** Prevent or minimize disease by following proper cultural practices when caring for lawns. See: [Turfgrass Disease Management](#)

---

**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

---