



Florida Gardening Calendar

Comments or suggestions?

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October

Central Florida Edition

What to Plant

Bedding Plants: Even though temperatures are still warm, begin planting for the cooler months ahead. Dianthus, petunia, and pansy are good annuals for the fall garden. **See:** [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

Bulbs: Plant agapanthus, rain lily, and many varieties of lily now for blooms next spring or summer. Add organic matter to the planting bed for best results. **See:** [Bulbs for Florida](#)

Herbs: A wide range of herbs can be planted from seeds or plants this month. Some to try are parsley, cilantro, chives, garlic, and sage. **See:** [Herbs in the Florida Garden](#)

Vegetables: Plant crops now that will grow and produce throughout the winter months. This includes beet, Brussels sprout, carrot, and onion. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

What to Do

Lawn weeds: The best time to control winter weeds in lawns is before they appear. Pre-emergent herbicides must be applied when nighttime temps are 55°F-60°F for 4-5 days to be effective. **See:** [Weed Management in Home Lawns](#)

Fertilize ornamental trees and shrubs: This is the last month of the year to fertilize plants that aren't performing as desired. Controlled-release fertilizer provides nutrients over a longer period of time. **See:** [Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes](#)

Fertilize Bahia and St. Augustine lawns: Choose a fertilizer (not a weed & feed) with little or no phosphorus unless a soil test indicates the need or it. A fertilizer with controlled-release nitrogen will give longer lasting results. This is the last fertilization for these lawn types for the year. **See:** [Bahia grass for Florida Lawns](#) and [St. Augustine grass for Florida Lawns](#)

Strawberries: Prepare beds and set strawberry plants this month. Strawberries also make a colorful and tasty container planting. Either way provide daily watering until plants are established. **See:** [Strawberries in the Florida Garden](#)

Winter landscapes: Evergreen hollies and their bright berries add color to the landscape when other plants have died back for the winter. Water well when planting and mulch to minimize weeds. **See:** [Hollies at a Glance](#) and [Planting Shrubs in Florida Landscapes](#)

Twig girdlers: Small branches falling from oak and hickory trees may be the work of twig girdlers. To control, clean up and destroy fallen branches, which may harbor young twig girdlers. **See:** [Insect Borers of Trees and Shrubs](#)

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/>