October

South Florida Edition

What to Plant

**Bedding Plants:** Even though temperatures are still warm, begin planting for the cooler months ahead. Impatiens, alyssum, and dianthus are good plants for the fall/winter garden. See: *Gardening with Annuals in Florida*

**Bulbs:** Plant agapanthus, rain lily, and Clivia 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 seed or transplants this month. Some to try are dill, fennel, parsley, and cilantro. See: *Herbs in the Florida Garden*

**Vegetables:** Plant crops now that will grow and produce through the winter months. This includes beet, English pea, carrot, garlic, and onion. See: *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide*

What to Do

**Lawn weeds:** Control winter weeds in lawns before they appear. Pre-emergent herbicides should be applied when nighttime temps drop to 55-60°F for several consecutive nights. See: *Weed Management in Home Lawns*

**Fertilize ornamental trees and shrubs:** This is the last month of the year to fertilize shrubs and trees. Controlled-release fertilizer provides nutrients over a longer period of time. See: *Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes*

**Fertilize lawns:** For bahiagrass and centipedegrass lawns use a fertilizer (not a weed & feed) that contains controlled-release nitrogen for longer lasting results. Choose one with little or no phosphorus unless a soil test indicates a need. This is the last lawn fertilization for the year. See: *Bahiagrass for Florida Lawns Centipedegrass for Florida Lawns*

**Strawberries:** Prepare beds and set strawberry plants this month. Strawberries also make a colorful and tasty container planting. Water daily until plants are established. See: *Growing Strawberries in the Florida Home Garden*

**Fertilize Palms:** Fertilize palms this month with 8-2-12+4Mg. See: *Fertilization of Field-Grown and Landscape Palms in Florida*

**Oleanders:** The oleander caterpillar is a year round resident in South Florida. To control without harming beneficial insects, prune off infested leaves or spray with BT (Bacillus thuringiensis). See: *Oleander Caterpillar*

**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/](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?  
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