**What to Plant**

**Bedding Plants:** If summer beds need refreshing, try scarlet sage, nasturtium, celosia, and wax begonia for color into fall. See: *Gardening with Annuals in Florida*

**Bulbs:** Plant gladiolus every 2 weeks to stagger blooming, staking each plant. Add color, texture and pattern to the garden with the many varieties of Elephant’s Ear (Alocasia) available now. See: *Bulbs for Florida*

**Herbs:** Plant herbs that tolerate the warm temperatures of early fall, such as Mexican tarragon, mint, rosemary, and basil. See: *Herbs in the Florida Garden*

**Vegetables:** Prepare the fall vegetable garden. Using transplants from your local garden center will get the garden off to a fast start, but seeds provide a wider variety from which to choose. Cool-season crops such as broccoli, cabbage, collards, and lettuce can be planted now. See: *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide*

**Lawn problems:** Continue to monitor the lawn for signs of insect damage. Fall armyworms, chinch bugs, mole crickets, and sod webworms are still active this month. See: *Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn*

**Divide perennials and bulbs:** Divide and replant perennials and bulbs that have grown too large or need rejuvenation. Add organic matter to planting beds and monitor water needs during establishment. See: *Propagation of Landscape Plants*

**Fertilize lawns:** Fertilize bermudagrass with controlled-release nitrogen (not a weed & feed) this month. Wait until next month to fertilize centipedegrass and bahiagrass lawns. See: *Bermudagrass for Florida Lawns*

**Check irrigation system:** Before summer rains taper off, check that irrigation systems are providing good coverage and operating properly. See: *How to Calibrate Your Sprinkler System*

**Citrus:** Fertilize citrus with a balanced fertilizer either this month or in October. Use controlled-release nitrogen as rain will not leach it from the soil too quickly. See: *Citrus Culture in the Home Landscape*

**Shrubs:** Consider placing native shrubs like beautyberry, marlberry, firebush, and dahoon holly where you can view the birds that enjoy them. See: *Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design Planting Shrubs in Florida Landscapes*

**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/