What to Plant

**Bedding Plants:** To add color to the winter garden, plant masses of petunia, pansy, snapdragon, lobelia, alyssum, and viola. See: *Gardening with Annuals in Florida*

**Bulbs:** Amaryllis is a popular plant for the holiday season. They can be forced to bloom now or planted outdoors for spring blooms. See: *Amaryllis*

**Herbs:** Plant herbs that thrive in cool weather. Some to try are parsley, thyme, sage, dill, fennel, garlic, comfrey, and cilantro. See: *Herbs in the Florida Garden*

**Vegetables:** Reliable cool season vegetables to plant this month include English pea, radish, cabbage, beet, and broccoli. See: *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide*

What to Do

**Poinsettias:** One of the most popular indoor holiday plants is poinsettia. With proper care, this colorful plant will give weeks of color. See: *Poinsettias at a Glance*

**Cold protection:** Don’t prune cold-damaged plants yet. Wait until warm weather returns to cut back plants. See: *Cold Protection of Ornamental Plants*

**Vegetable Garden:** Make sure that seeds and transplants are properly spaced to have good development of tubers and vegetables. See: *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide*

**Houseplants:** Inspect regularly for pests on indoor plants. Keep in mind that plant specific temperature, light, and humidity are key to ensuring that indoor plants thrive. See: *Managing Pests of Indoor Plantscapes*

**Soil Test:** If plants did not perform as desired this year or new plantings are being planned, a soil test may be a good idea. See: *Soil Testing*

**Compost/Mulch:** Fallen leaves provide the carbon ingredient needed for successful composting and also make a good mulch. See: *Compost Tips for the Home Gardener*

**Pests:** While cooler weather generally means fewer pests, some populations actually increase at this time of year. Continue monitoring and treat as needed. See: *Landscape Integrated Pest 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://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener](http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener)
- Living Green [http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/)