**What to Plant**

**Annuals:** New varieties of coleus do well in sun or shade and provide vivid colors and patterns for months. See: [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

**Bulbs:** This is an ideal time to plant many bulbs. Consider planting blood lily, caladium, or canna. **Louisiana iris** makes a beautiful cut flower and thrives in most soil types although they prefer moist soils with a high organic matter content. See: [Bulbs for Florida](#)

**Herbs:** Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, oregano, sage, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. See: [Herbs in the Florida Garden](#)

**Vegetables:** Continue planting warm season crops. Plant okra and cucumber. Mulch well to prevent weeds and provide irrigation if rainfall is lacking. See: [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

**What to Do**

**Pests:** Monitor landscape plants weekly for aphids on tender new growth. See: [Insects Sheet 2 Landscape Integrated Pest Management](#)

**Divide perennials and bulbs.** Divide clumps of bulbs, ornamental grasses, or herbaceous perennials to expand or rejuvenate garden beds or to pass-along to friends. See: [Propagation of Landscape Plants Gardening with Perennials in Florida](#)

**Lawn Problems:** Many cultural lawn problems such as lack of water mimic insect damage. Confirm the damage is being caused by insects before applying a pesticide. See: [Insect Pest Management on Turfgrass](#)

**Shrubs:** Planting season is here and there are a wide variety of shrubs that can be added to the landscape now. See: [Florida-Friendly Landscaping Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design Planting Shrubs in the Florida Landscape](#)

**Trees:** Many beautiful trees are in bloom. Consider planting **fringetree**, **Carolina Silverbell**, or **redbud**.

**Fertilize lawns.** Apply fertilizer no sooner than mid-April after new growth has started. Choose one with no or very little phosphorus unless a soil test indicates a need for it. A fertilizer containing slow release nitrogen will give longer lasting results. See: [Your Florida Lawn Bahiagrass for Florida Lawns Centipede for Florida Lawns St. Augustinegrass for Florida Lawns Zoysiagrass for Florida Lawns](#)

**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://lyn.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://lyn.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/)

Comments or suggestions? Dr. Sydney Park Brown spbrown@ufl.edu