Central Florida Edition

What to Plant

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

Bulbs: Amaryllis is a popular plant for the holiday season. Force it to bloom now or plant outdoors for spring blooms. See: Amaryllis

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

Vegetables: Reliable cool season vegetables to plant this month include celery, cauliflower, lettuce, cabbage, and carrot. See: Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide

What to Do

Poinsettias: One of the most popular holiday plants is poinsettia. Enjoy it indoors now, protect it from cold until spring, and then plant in the garden for re-blooming next year. See: Poinsettias at a Glance

Cold protection: Prepare now to protect tender plants should cold weather threaten. See: Cold Protection of Ornamental Plants

Fungal disease: Continue monitoring for brown patch and large patch fungal diseases until May. Proper cultural practices are key in control. See: Brown Patch

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 will reveal the specific nutrients that need to be applied. See: Soil Testing

Compost: Composting is environmentally friendly and produces a beneficial soil amendment or mulch. Fallen leaves provide the carbon ingredient needed for successful composting. 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

Insect Management in the Home Garden

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://gardensolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/
- Living Green http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/

Comments or suggestions?
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