



Florida Gardening Calendar

Comments or suggestions?

Dr. Sydney Park Brown
spbrown@ufl.edu
Carolyn Wildes
clwildes@ufl.edu

December

Central Florida Edition

What to Plant

Bedding Plants: To add color to the winter garden, plant masses of petunias, pansies, snapdragons, and Shasta daisy. **See:** [Bedding Plants: Selection, Establishment and Maintenance](#)

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 coriander. **See:** [Herbs in the Florida Garden](#)

Vegetables: Reliable cool season vegetables to plant this month include celery, cauliflower, lettuce, cabbage, and carrots. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

What to Do

Poinsettias: One of the most popular holiday plants is poinsettia. Enjoy it indoors now; then plant in the garden for re-blooming next year. **See:** [Poinsettias for Florida](#)

Cold protection: While warm weather is predicted this winter, prepare now to protect tender plants should cold weather threaten. **See:** [Cold Protection of Ornamentals Plants](#)

Fungal disease: Continue monitoring for brown patch fungal disease. Limiting the application of nitrogen and irrigating at the proper time of day are good preventive measures. **See:** [Brown Patch](#)

Houseplants: Winter shifts the focus from outdoors to indoor plants. Temperature, light, and humidity are key to insuring that indoor plants thrive. **See:** [Care of Plants in the Home](#)

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: 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:** [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"

UF Resources For Gardeners

- Solutions For Your Life
<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>
- *Gardening in a Minute* Radio Program
<http://gardeninginaminute.com>
- UF/IFAS Publications (EDIS)
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- Florida Yards & Neighborhoods
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>
- UF Environmental Horticulture Dept.
<http://hort.ufl.edu/>
- Florida Master Gardener Program
<http://mastergardener.ifas.ufl.edu>
- Florida-friendly Landscaping
<http://www.floridayards.org/>