



# Florida Gardening Calendar

## Comments or suggestions?

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# October

## South Florida Edition

### What to Plant

**Bedding Plants:** Even though temperatures are still warm, begin planting for the cooler months ahead. Asters, browallia, and dianthus are good plants for the fall garden. **See:** [Bedding Plants: Selection, Establishment and Maintenance](#)

**Bulbs:** Plant Agapanthus, Zephyranthes, and Kaffir lily now for blooms next spring or summer. Add organic matter to the planting hole for best results. **See:** [Bulbs for Florida](#)

**Herbs:** A wide range of herbs can be planted from seeds or plants this month. Some to try are dill, fennel, parsley, and cilantro. **See:** [Herbs in the Florida Garden](#)

**Vegetables:** Plant crops now that will grow and produce through the winter months. This includes beets, English peas, carrots, and onions. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

### What to Do

**Lawn weeds:** The time to control winter weeds in lawns is before they appear. Pre-emergent herbicides must be applied at the right time to be effective. **See:** [Weed Management in Home Lawns](#)

**Fertilize ornamental trees and shrubs:** This is the last month of the year to fertilize plants that aren't performing as desired. Slow or timed-release fertilizer provides nutrients over a longer period of time. **See:** [Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes](#)

**Fertilize lawns:** Fertilize Bahia and Centipede lawns with a complete fertilizer. This is the last fertilization for these lawn types for the year. **See:** [General Recommendations for Fertilization of Turfgrass on Florida Soils](#)

**Strawberries:** Prepare beds and set strawberry plants this month. Strawberries also make a colorful and tasty container planting. Either way provide daily watering until plants are established. **See:** [Strawberries in the Florida Garden](#)

**Oleanders:** The Oleander caterpillar is a year round resident in South Florida. To control without harming beneficial insect, simply remove infested leaves or spray with BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). **See:** [Oleander Caterpillar](#)

**Twig girdlers:** Small branches falling from oak and hickory trees may be the work of twig girdlers. To control, clean up and destroy fallen branches, which may harbor young twig girdlers. **See:** [Insect Borers of Trees and Shrubs](#)

#### 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/>