What to Plant

Bedding Plants: If summer beds need refreshing, try ageratum, celosia, zinnia, and wax begonia for color into fall. See: Gardening with Annuals in Florida

Bulbs: Add color, texture, and pattern to the garden with the many varieties of Elephant’s Ear (Alocasia) available now. Others to plant now include calla, narcissus, and zephyr lily. See: Alocasia spp., Bulbs for Florida

Herbs: Plant herbs that tolerate the warm temperatures of early fall, such as Mexican tarragon, mint, rosemary, and basil. See: Herbs in the Florida Garden

Vegetables: Plant cool season vegetable crops such as radish, carrot, cabbage, and lettuce. See: Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide

What to Do

Lawn problems: Continue to monitor the lawn for signs of insect damage. Fall armyworms, chinch bugs, mole crickets, and sod webworms are still active this month. See: Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn

Divide perennials and bulbs: Divide and replant perennials and bulbs that have grown too large or need rejuvenation. Add organic matter to new planting areas and monitor water needs during establishment. See: Propagation of Landscape Plants

Fertilize lawns: Bahia, Bermudagrass, Zoysia, and St, Augustine lawns should be fertilized this month. Choose one with no or very little phosphorus unless a soil test indicates a need for it. A fertilizer containing controlled-release nitrogen will give longer lasting results. See: Your Florida Lawn, Bahiagrass for Florida Lawns, Bermudagrass for Florida Lawns, St. Augustinegrass for Florida Lawns, Zoysiagrass for Florida Lawns

Lawn Weeds: Healthy grass is the best defense against weeds. Avoid “weed and feed” products; only apply herbicides to areas with weed infestations. See: Weed Management in Home Lawns

Flowering perennials: Firebush, firespike, russelia, and other perennials supply nectar for visiting hummingbirds. See: Gardening with Perennials in Florida

Vegetable gardens: If not done in August, prepare the fall vegetable garden. Using transplants from your local garden center will get the garden off to a fast start, but seeds provide a wider variety from which to choose. See: Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide

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

Comments or suggestions?
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