



# Florida Gardening Calendar

## Comments or suggestions?

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# December

## South Florida Edition

### What to Plant

**Bedding Plants:** To add color to the winter garden, plant masses of begonia, impatiens, and geranium. **See:** [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

**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, 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; then plant in the garden to re-bloom next year. **See:** [Poinsettias at a Glance](#)

**Irrigation:** Plants may need irrigation if the weather has been warm and dry. Monitor for signs of stress and water only as needed. **See:** [Fertilization and Irrigation Needs of Florida Lawns and Landscapes](#)

**Fungal disease:** Continue monitoring for brown patch and large patch fungal disease through May. 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 may be a good idea. **See:** [Soil Testing](#)

**Compost:** Composting is environmentally friendly and produces a beneficial soil amendment or mulch. Plant debris provides 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](#)

**Holiday Trees:** Consider enjoying a live southern red cedar and then plant it in the landscape when the holidays are over. **See:** [Christmas Tree Selection and Care](#)  
[Planting Shrubs in the Florida Landscape](#)

**Protect:** Falling temperatures may require protection of tender orchids, impatiens, and tomatoes. **See:** [Cold Protection of Ornamental Plants](#)

#### 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/>