



Florida Gardening Calendar

Comments or suggestions?

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February

South Florida Edition

What to Plant

Bedding Plants: Good performers in South Florida's mild winter include impatiens, verbena, dianthus, strawflower, and lobelia. **See:** [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

Bulbs: Many bulbs can be planted now. Divide large crowded clumps. Provide adequate water to establish. Some to try are Amazon lily, crinum, and agapanthus. **See:** [Bulbs for Florida](#)

Ground Covers: Consider replacing areas of grass with drought tolerant, low maintenance ground covers. **See:** [Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design](#)

Vegetables: Begin planting warm season crops this month. Sweet potato, cantaloupe, eggplant and squash can be started while temperatures are cool. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

What to Do

Lawns: Fertilize lawns this month. Choose one (not a weed & feed) with no or very little phosphorus unless a soil test indicates the need for it. A fertilizer with controlled-release nitrogen will give longer lasting results. **See:** [Your Florida Lawn Bahiagrass for Florida Lawns](#) [Bermudagrass for Florida Lawns](#) [Centipedegrass for Florida Lawns](#) [St. Augustinegrass for Florida Lawns](#) [Zoysiagrass for Florida Lawns](#)

Prune Roses: Roses should be pruned this month to reduce and improve the overall form. After pruning, fertilize and apply a fresh layer of mulch. Blooming will begin eight to nine weeks after pruning. **See:** [Growing Roses in Florida](#)

Fertilize Shrubs and Palms: Spread fertilizer evenly over the soil surface and water in. Follow with a fresh layer of mulch to conserve moisture and reduce weeds. Hold off pruning cold-damaged branches until new growth starts. **See:** [Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes](#)

Lawn Weeds: Apply a pre-emergent weed killer (not a weed and feed) to lawns this month to prevent germination of warm season weed seeds. Apply when temperatures rise to 65°F for 4-5 days. Timing is important for good control. **See:** [Weed Management in Home Lawns](#)

Spray: When avocados and mango have lost 2/3 of blossoms, spray copper fungicide to control anthracnose. **See:** [Diseases of Avocado in Florida](#) [Some Common Diseases of Mango in Florida](#)

Fruits: If not done in January, fertilize fruit trees including citrus now. **See:** [Citrus Culture in the Home Landscape](#) [Tropical and Subtropical Fruit Crops for the Home Landscape: Alternatives to Citrus](#)

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/>