



Florida Gardening Calendar

Comments or suggestions?

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May

South Florida Edition

What to Plant

Annuals: Plants that can take summer heat include coleus, salvia, torenia, wax begonia, and ornamental pepper. **See:** [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

Bulbs: Some lilies do better when their roots are crowded. Try planting Amazon, Aztec, and Clivia lilies in containers to increase blooming. **See:** [Bulbs for Florida](#)

Herbs: Plant heat loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, ginger, cumin, summer savory, and rosemary. **See:** [Herbs in the Florida Garden](#)

Vegetables: Southern favorites to plant now are okra, southern pea, and sweet potato. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

What to Do

Pests: Harmful insects become more active as the weather warms. Watch for thrips, scale, and mites on ornamental plants. **See:** [Insects Sheet 1](#) [Insects Sheet 2](#) [Lace Bugs on Ornamental Plants](#)

Gardenias and Ixora: While some yellowing of older leaves is normal, yellowing of new growth usually indicates a micronutrient deficiency. **See:** [Gardenias Nutrient Deficiency Symptoms of Woody Ornamental Plants in South Florida](#)

Oleanders: Chewed or ragged leaves indicate oleander caterpillars at work. **See:** [Oleander Caterpillar](#)

Lawn insects: Watch for damage from chinch bugs in St. Augustine and begin scouting for newly hatched mole crickets in Bahia lawns. **See:** [Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn](#)

Tomatoes: Watch for pests, disease, and nutritional disorders on tomato plants. **See:** [Tomatoes in the Florida Garden](#)

Trees: Prepare for hurricane season by checking trees for damaged or weak branches and prune if needed. Hire an ISA certified arborist. **See:** [International Society of Arboriculture](#) [Pruning Young Trees](#) [Pruning Mature Trees](#)

Lawn nutrition: If Bahia lawns are yellowing, iron can correct the problem. **See:** [Bahia grass for Florida Lawns](#)

Prevent lawn diseases: Prevent or minimize disease by following proper cultural practices when caring for lawns. **See:** [Turfgrass Disease Management](#)

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/>