



# 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. Impatiens, alyssum, and dianthus are good plants for the fall/winter garden. **See:** [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

**Bulbs:** Plant agapanthus, rain lily, and Clivia lily now for blooms next spring or summer. Add organic matter to the planting bed for best results. **See:** [Bulbs for Florida](#)

**Herbs:** A wide range of herbs can be planted from seed or transplants 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 beet, English pea, carrot, garlic, and onion. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

### What to Do

**Lawn weeds:** Control winter weeds in lawns before they appear. Pre-emergent herbicides should be applied when nighttime temps drop to 55-60°F for several consecutive nights. **See:** [Weed Management in Home Lawns](#)

**Fertilize ornamental trees and shrubs:** This is the last month of the year to fertilize shrubs and trees. Controlled-release fertilizer provides nutrients over a longer period of time. **See:** [Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes](#)

**Fertilize lawns:** For bahiagrass and centipedegrass lawns use a fertilizer (not a weed & feed) that contains controlled-release nitrogen for longer lasting results. Choose one with little or no phosphorus unless a soil test indicates a need. This is the last lawn fertilization for the year. **See:** [Bahagrass for Florida Lawns](#)  
[Centipedegrass for Florida Lawns](#)

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

**Fertilize Palms:** Fertilize palms this month with 8-2-12+4Mg. **See:** [Fertilization of Field-Grown and Landscape Palms in Florida](#)

**Oleanders:** The oleander caterpillar is a year round resident in South Florida. To control without harming beneficial insects, prune off 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"
  - [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://gardeninginsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/>
- Living Green  
<http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/>