



## Florida Gardening Calendar

### Comments or suggestions?

Dr. Sydney Park Brown  
spbrown@ufl.edu

September

## South Florida Edition

### What to Plant

**Bedding Plants:** If summer beds need refreshing, try scarlet sage, nasturtium, celosia, and wax begonia for color into fall. See: [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

**Bulbs:** Plant gladiolus every 2 weeks to stagger blooming, staking each plant. Add color, texture and pattern to the garden with the many varieties of Elephant's Ear (Alocasia) available now. See: [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:** 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. Cool-season crops such as broccoli, cabbage, collards, and lettuce can be planted now. 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 planting beds and monitor water needs during establishment. See: [Propagation of Landscape Plants](#)

**Fertilize lawns:** Fertilize bermudagrass with controlled-release nitrogen (not a weed & feed) this month. Wait until next month to fertilize centipedegrass and bahiagrass lawns. See: [Bermudagrass for Florida Lawns](#)

**Check irrigation system:** Before summer rains taper off, check that irrigation systems are providing good coverage and operating properly. See: [How to Calibrate Your Sprinkler System](#)

**Citrus:** Fertilize citrus with a balanced fertilizer either this month or in October. Use controlled-release nitrogen as rain will not leach it from the soil too quickly. See: [Citrus Culture in the Home Landscape](#)

**Shrubs:** Consider placing native shrubs like beautyberry, marlberry, firebush, and dahoon holly where you can view the birds that enjoy them. See: [Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design](#)  
[Planting Shrubs in Florida Landscapes](#)

#### 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://gardensolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/>
- Living Green  
<http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/>