

March What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding Plants: Dianthus and other cool-season annuals continue to flourish. Consider planting warm-season annuals such as angelonia, wax begonia, and zinnia at the end of the month. **See Annuals:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: Plant dahlia, canna, and gloriosa bulbs for spring and summer flowering. Provide stakes as needed to support growth. **See Bulbs for Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

Herbs: Consider growing edible ginger. Plant rhizomes in well-drained soil in full to part sun. **See Ginger:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_ginger and **Herbs:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Begin planting warm-season crops, such as beans, tomatoes, squash, and corn, early in the month for late spring harvest. Protect from frost. **See Vegetable Gardening in Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening



Figure 3.

Tomato

Credit:

UF/IFAS Photo by Sally Lanigan

[Click thumbnail to enlarge.]

What to Do

Azaleas: Prune azaleas when they have finished blooming to reduce their size and improve their form. **See Azalea:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_azalea

Shrubs and trees: Prune when the dormant season ends and new growth begins. **See Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning

Palms and shrubs: Fertilize palms (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep261>), azaleas, camellias, and other ornamental shrubs if needed. Choose a fertilizer in which at least 30% of its nitrogen is slow release. **See Palm Nutrition and Fertilization:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_nutrition and **Landscape Fertilization:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_fertilization

Irrigation: Check your sprinkler system for problems such as broken or misaligned spray heads. **See *Landscape Irrigation*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation

April What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding Plants: New varieties of coleus do well in sun or shade and provide vivid colors and patterns for months. **See *Annuals*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: This is an ideal time to plant many bulbs. Consider blood lily, caladium, or canna. Louisiana iris and others make beautiful cut flowers. **See *Bulbs for Florida*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers



Figure 4.

Yellow canna

Credit:

UF/IFAS

[Click thumbnail to enlarge.]

Herbs: Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, oregano, sage, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. **See *Herbs*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Continue planting warm-season crops. Mulch well to prevent weeds and provide irrigation if rainfall is lacking. **See *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Pests: Monitor landscape plants for aphids that feed on tender new growth. **See *Landscape Pest Management*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests

Beneficials: Identify and conserve beneficial insects. These insects should be encouraged in your yard! **See *Beneficial Insects*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_beneficial_insects

Perennials and bulbs: Divide clumps of bulbs, ornamental grasses, or herbaceous perennials to expand or rejuvenate garden beds or to pass along to friends. **See *Bulbs for***

Florida: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers and *Perennial Landscape Plants*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_perennials

Lawn insects: Rule out cultural problems, such as lack of water, that resemble insect damage before applying a pesticide. **See** *Turfgrass Pest Insects*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_pest_insects

Lawns: Apply fertilizer after new growth has started—usually early April in north-central Florida and mid-April for north Florida and the panhandle. **See** *Lawn Fertilizer*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_fertilization

Shrubs: Choose from a wide variety of shrubs to add to the landscape now. **See** *Shrubs*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_shrubs and *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design*: http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_v090110.pdf

Trees: Consider planting a spring-blooming tree, such as fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), Carolina Silverbell (*Halesia carolina*), or redbud (*Cercis canadensis*). **See** *Southern Tree Fact Sheets*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/department_envhort-trees

Mulch: Add mulch to minimize weeds and conserve moisture during dry weather. Organic mulches break down and add nutrients to the soil. **See** *Landscape Mulches*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_mulch

May What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding Plants: Plants that can take summer heat include salvia, angelonia, wax begonia, and ornamental pepper. **See** *Annuals*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: Planting early-, mid-, and late-blooming varieties of daylily ensures months of color from these low-maintenance plants. **See** *Daylilies*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_daylilies and *Bulbs for Florida*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

Herbs: Continue to plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, oregano, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. **See** *Herbs*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Swiss chard will take the heat as well as okra, southern pea, and sweet potato. **See** *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Pests: Insects become more active in warm weather. Watch for thrips, scales, and mites on ornamental plants. **See** *Landscape Pest Management*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests

Gardenias: Yellowing of older leaves is usually normal; yellowing of new growth usually indicates a micronutrient deficiency. **See** *Gardenias at a Glance*: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep338>

Oleanders: Inspect chewed or ragged leaves for oleander caterpillars at work. **See** *Oleander Pest Management*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_oleander_ipm

Lawn insects: Watch for damage from chinch bugs in St. Augustinegrass and begin scouting for newly hatched mole crickets in bahiagrass lawns. **See *Turfgrass Pest Insects*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_pest_insects

Tomatoes: Watch for pests, disease, and nutritional disorders on tomato plants. **See *Home Tomato Gardening*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tomato_gardening

New plants: Produce more plants by air layering, grafting, division, or cuttings. **See *Seeds and Propagation (Lawn and Garden)*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_garden_propagation



Figure 5.

Hibiscus

Credit:

UF/IFAS Photo by Marisol Amador

[Click thumbnail to enlarge.]

Trees: Prepare for hurricane season by checking trees for damaged or weak branches and pruning if needed. Hire an ISA-certified arborist. **See *International Society of Arboriculture*:** <http://isa-arbor.com/> and *Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning

Lawn Mowing: Encourage healthy growth and discourage insects, weeds, and diseases by mowing correctly. **See *Lawn Mowing*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_mowing

June What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding Plants: Annuals that can take full sun during hot summer months include celosia, portulaca, vinca, and some coleus. **See *Annuals*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Perennials: Add bright color to the landscape with perennials. **See *Perennial Landscape Plants*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_perennials

Palms: Summer's warm, rainy weather is the perfect time to plant palms. Make sure not to cover the trunk with soil. **See *Palms*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palms

Herbs: Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. Pinch back regularly to prevent flowering and enhance branching. **See Herbs:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Plant okra, southern pea, and sweet potato. **See Vegetable Gardening in Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening



Figure 6.

Eggplant

Credit:

UF/IFAS Photo by Tyler Jones

[Click thumbnail to enlarge.]

What to Do

Pests: Monitor the landscape weekly for harmful insects. Knowing which insects commonly attack a plant can aid in identification and treatment. **See Landscape Pest Management:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests

Irrigation: If rainfall has been lacking, watch for drought stress and water as needed. **See Landscape Irrigation:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation

Palms and cycads: Watch for nutrient deficiencies or environmental problems with palms and correct using an appropriate treatment. **See Palm Nutrition:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_nutrition

Summer-flowering shrubs: Prune lightly during the warmer months to encourage more branching and blooming. Azaleas can still be pruned in June without removing next spring's flower buds. **See Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning

Fertilizer Bans: Certain municipalities in north Florida prohibit the application of fertilizer to lawns and/or landscape plants during the summer rainy season (June–September). See if such an ordinance exists in your area.

Lawns: Yellow and brown patches in St. Augustinegrass can be caused by chinch bugs, disease, or lack of water. Take time to determine the cause so your remedy is effective. Rejuvenate areas where grass does not grow well by replacing it with a more adapted turf or groundcover. **See Garden Pest Insects:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_garden_pest_insects and *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant*

Selection & Landscape Design: http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_v090110.pdf, and *Ground Covers*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_ground_covers

July What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: As the heat continues, water annuals when needed to keep the soil evenly moist. **See Annuals**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants



Figure 7.

Mexican sage

Credit:

UF/IFAS Photo by Tyler Jones

[Click thumbnail to enlarge.]

Bulbs: Butterfly lily, gladiolus, and society garlic can be planted during the middle of summer. **See Bulbs for Florida**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

Palms: Continue planting palms while the rainy season is in full swing. Support large palms with braces for 6–8 months after planting. Nails should not be driven directly into a palm trunk. **See Palms**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palms

Vegetables: Start your tomato and Halloween pumpkin seeds! Cucumbers, peppers, and southern peas, can also be planted now. Watch for insects and disease symptoms. **See Vegetable Gardening in Florida**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do

- **Lawns**: Determine the cause of any lawn problems before taking action. If an insect is the culprit, treat only the affected area. Rule out disease or sprinkler malfunction. **See Your Florida Lawn**: <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/yourfloridalawn/>
- **Fertilizer Bans**: Certain municipalities in north Florida prohibit the application of fertilizer to lawns and/or landscape plants during the summer rainy season (June–September). See if such an ordinance exists in your area.

- **Vegetable garden:** Use summer heat to solarize garden soil for fall planting. It takes 4–6 weeks to kill weeds, disease, and nematodes, so start now. **See *Soil Solarization*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_soil_solarization
- **Azaleas:** Flower beds have formed. Prune no later than mid-July to protect next spring's bloom. **See *Azalea*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_azalea
- **Irrigation:** Install an inexpensive rain shutoff device to conserve water and save money. If one is already installed, check that it is operating properly. **See *Landscape Irrigation*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation
- **Trees:** Prepare for hurricane season by checking trees for damaged or weak branches and pruning if needed. Hire an ISA-certified arborist. **See *International Society of Arboriculture*:** <http://isa-arbor.com/> and ***Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning
- **Pests on ornamental plants:** Inspect for caterpillars on trees and shrubs. Large trees can normally withstand caterpillar feeding, but specimen shrubs may need treatment if damage is extensive. **See *Landscape Pest Management*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests
- **Peach and nectarine trees:** Consider planting one of the many new peach and nectarine cultivars that grow well in North Florida. Newly planted trees should be fertilized now. Apply 1/2 lb. per tree of 8-8-8 fertilizer. **See *Temperate Fruit for the Home Landscape*:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_home_temperate_fruit