



Florida Gardening Calendar

May

Central Florida Edition

What to Plant

Annuals: Plants that can take summer heat include salvias, torenia, wax begonias, and ornamental peppers. **See:** [Bedding Plants: Selection, Establishment and Maintenance](#)

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

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

Vegetables: Southern favorites to plant now are okra, southern peas and sweet potatoes. **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:** [Ornamental Insects](#)

Gardenias: While some yellowing of older leaves is normal, yellowing of new growth usually indicates a micronutrient deficiency. **See:** [Gardenias](#)

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](#)

Lawn nutrition: If Bahia lawns are yellowing, iron can correct the problem. **See:** [General Recommendations for Fertilization of Turfgrass on Florida Soils](#)

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"

UF Resources For Gardeners

- Solutions For Your Life
<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>
- Gardening in a Minute Radio Program
<http://gardeninginaminute.com>
- UF/IFAS Publications (EDIS)
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- Florida Yards & Neighborhoods
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>
- UF Environmental Horticulture Dept.
<http://hort.ufl.edu/>
- Florida Master Gardener Program
<http://mastergardener.ifas.ufl.edu>
- Florida-friendly Landscaping
<http://www.floridayards.org/>

Comments or suggestions?

Dr. Sydney Park Brown
spbrown@ufl.edu
Carolyn Wildes
clwildes@ufl.edu