



# Florida Gardening Calendar

Comments or suggestions?  
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**April**

## South Florida Edition

### What to Plant

**Annuals:** Plant heat tolerant annuals, such as coleus, vincas, and portulaca. **See:** [Bedding Plants: Selection, Establishment and Maintenance](#)

**Bulbs:** [Cannas](#) thrive in the heat of summer. New varieties have colorful leaves as well as flowers. **See:** [Bulbs for Florida](#)

**Seeds:** This is the last month to plant annual flower seeds that need to germinate before hot weather returns. **See:** [Germinating Your Own Bedding Plants for the Florida Landscape](#)

**Vegetables:** Continue planting warm season crops. Mulch beds well and watch irrigation if the weather is dry. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

### What to Do

**Pests:** When monitoring insect activity, know which bugs are damaging plants. [Woody Pest Insects and Mites](#)

**Flowering Plants:** If leaves and/or flowers of gardenias and roses are damaged, thrips may be present. **See:** [Thrips on Ornamental Plants](#)

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

**Palms:** Identify and treat environmental and nutritional disorders in palm trees. **See:** [Care and Maintenance of Landscape Palms in South Florida](#)

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

**Divide perennials and bulbs:** Divide clumps of bulbs or herbaceous perennials to expand garden beds or pass-along to friends. **See:** [Propagation of Landscape Plants](#)

**Shrubs:** Planting season is here and there are a wide variety of shrubs that can be added to the landscape now. **See:** [Low Maintenance Landscape Plants for South Florida](#)

#### 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

- UF/IFAS County Extension Offices  
<http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/>
- Gardening in a Minute  
<http://gardeninginaminute.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- Electronic Data Information Source (EDIS)  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- Florida Yards & Neighborhoods  
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>
- UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture  
<http://hort.ufl.edu/>
- Master Gardener  
<http://mastergardener.ifas.ufl.edu>
- Florida-friendly Landscaping  
<http://www.floridayards.org/>