

UF/IFAS Extension SJC 2024 GARDEN CALENDAR

JANUARY

1. Celebrate Florida Arbor Day on the 19th by planting a tree.
2. Transplant hardy plants while they are dormant to prevent transplant shock.
3. Wait until spring to prune cold-damaged plants.
4. Order vegetable seed varieties recommended for north Florida.
5. To properly protect a plant from the cold, cover should be tent-like to the ground, not cinched around trunk.
6. Inspect holly, camellia, and other evergreens for scale on the backs of leaves. Apply dormant oil if necessary.
7. Dormant lawns need less water. Irrigate every 10-14 days and only if needed.



FEBRUARY

1. Apply dormant oil on camellias, sagos, or hollies if they are infested with scale.
2. Add organic amendments to garden beds several weeks before planting.
3. Start flower & vegetable seeds for spring transplanting.
4. Plant or transplant trees and shrubs.
5. Fertilize citrus & other fruit trees late this month.
6. Check pH in new beds to see if adjustments are needed. Bring soil samples to Extension office for pH testing.



MARCH

1. Prune and fertilize azaleas and camellias once blooming has finished.
2. Irrigate newly planted shrubs regularly to hasten establishment.
3. Warm season vegetables should be planted by mid-March to assure good harvest before hurricane season begins in June.
4. Take advantage of discarded oak leaves by incorporating into beds or use as mulch.
5. Prune dormant trees, shrubs, and roses near end of month.
6. As plants begin to grow, adjust irrigation timer on the **10th** for Daylight Savings Time watering schedule.



APRIL

1. Fertilize lawn with slow release fertilizer, if needed, and only after grass has greened up.
2. Scout weekly to see if insects or diseases are invading lawn or landscape plants.
3. Keep annual flowers blooming by pinching expired blossoms frequently. Install heat tolerant annuals.
4. Feed vegetables & fruit trees per fertilizer label.
5. Pick vegetables as they ripen to discourage pests and increase production.
6. Seed or sod to replace winter-killed areas of the lawn.
7. Check palms for nutrient deficiencies and correct with palm fertilizer.



MAY







1. Prepare for hurricane season by planning how you will secure patio furniture, potted plants, and yard items.
2. Check supplies in your hurricane kit for freshness and know your evacuation route.
3. Replenish mulch to conserve water & combat weeds. Mulch should be 2-3 inches deep.
4. Fertilize fruit trees to maximize production.
5. Inspect St. Augustine grass for chinch bug damage in hot, sunny areas. They remain active until end of Nov.
6. Check trees and shrubs for nutritional deficiencies.
7. Stay on top of weeds by hand-pulling or spraying until prohibited by warm temperatures (about 90° F).
8. This could be a dry month, so watch plants for signs of drought stress.



JUNE

1. Remove fading vegetable & flower plants from the garden to discourage pests.
2. Plant a cover crop of field peas or sweet potatoes if vegetable garden is to remain fallow during summer.
3. Turn off irrigation system when rainfall is sufficient.
4. Remove weeds before they go to seed.
5. Insect and disease populations increase in rainy weather. Scout frequently to determine if control measures are warranted.
6. Watch for manganese deficiency on new growth of palms and cycads.
7. Inspect lawns for chinch bugs. Treat active areas five feet out, not the entire yard.



JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St. Augustine lawns may require iron application if they appear yellow. 2. Do not prune azaleas after July 4th as this could decrease spring flowering. 3. Use rain gauge to track rainfall and adjust irrigation system accordingly. 4. Remove fading annuals or vegetables so they do not harbor pests. 5. Empty containers with rainwater to deter mosquitoes. 6. Take frequent breaks and stay hydrated when working outdoors. 7. Solarize soil in vegetable gardens to help control nematodes. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As insect populations peak, scout landscape weekly and control as needed. 2. Start seeds for fall or cool-season garden. 3. During wet periods, inspect lawn for fungus. 4. When pruning palms, only remove completely dead fronds - never remove green ones. 5. This is the last month to plant grass seed with expectation of good establishment before winter. Water daily until sprouting occurs. 6. Trim back tropical plants like plumbagos and hibiscus as they flower on new growth. 7. Verify the supplies in your hurricane kit are still fresh. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Most cool-season vegetable varieties can be planted early this month with time to produce before first killing frost. 2. Fertilize young trees and shrubs to increase cold hardiness with 8-0-8 or 10-0-10. 3. Apply final fertilization for the year to lawn and fruit trees. 4. Divide bulbs to reduce competition and encourage blooms. Amaryllis do not need a rest period. Divide daylilies and replant. 5. Continue checking your lawn for pest damage and reduce populations with appropriate treatment. 6. Don't prune poinsettias after September 10th, as it may interfere with flowering in December. 
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plant cold-hardy trees and shrubs to give them a long establishment period before spring. 2. Plant herbs to use in holiday meals. 3. Continue inspecting for pests as insects will feed heavily in preparation for winter. 4. Transplant perennials. Mulch heavily and keep the soil moist to hasten their establishment. 5. Use fallen leaves for compost and mulch. 6. Plant mums or petunias for fall flower display. 7. Last month to prune evergreen landscape plants until spring. 8. Clean up potted outdoor plants before bringing inside for winter. Check for pests. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mulch plants for cold protection. Use leaves or pine needles for a Florida-Friendly mulch. 2. Reduce irrigation frequency on Nov. 3rd to once every 10 to 14 days and only if needed. 3. Check camellias, hollies, sagos, and pittosporums for scale insects. Control with a dormant oil spray. 4. Plant onions & strawberries. 5. Plant alyssum, dianthus, pansy, petunias and snapdragons for winter color. 6. Have frost covers handy in case of freeze. Our first freeze can occur around Thanksgiving. 7. Wildflower seeds can be sown this month. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transplant small trees and shrubs during their dormant phase. 2. Plant camellias for winter color. 3. Water plants heavily at least 24 hours before a freeze to help increase cold tolerance. 4. Group outdoor potted plants tightly to increase cold resistance. 5. Many bulbs can be planted now for spring and summer bloom in 2025. 6. Harvest all citrus if a freeze below 28 degrees is expected to last for several hours. 7. Have a Happy Holiday Season! 

UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County: <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/stjohns/>

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