Selected from Florida Vegetable Guide by JM Stephens, RA Dunn, G Kidder, D Short, & GW Simone, University of Florida and Month-by-Month Gardening in Florida by Tom MacCubbin
Citrus: Water as needed - especially 24-48 hours before a freeze. Protect above and below grafted area on the trunk when freezing temperatures occur.

Fruits: Major removal of twigs and branches should occur before spring. Weed as needed. Keep grass away from root areas. Apply 6-6-6- or 8-8-8 fertilizer to Pears.

Flowers: Annuals to plant are carnations, pansies, petunias, snapdragons, delphiniums, larkspur, dianthus, and foxgloves. Be ready to move less hardy bulbs inside. Most others, like ginger and amaryllis, may show foliar damage during severe cold, but they can be left in the ground and they should survive. Tulips, hyacinths, and daffodils can be planted now if you refrigerated them for 8 weeks to meet their chilling requirements.

Roses: DO NOT Fertilize. Water as needed. Prepare sites for new plants 1/3 top soil, 1/3 dehydrated cow manure, 1/3 peat moss, ½ cup super phosphate or bone meal. Roses should be pruned once each year. In north Florida the best time is around Valentine’s Day, February 14th. A little sooner or later doesn’t really matter. If you want roses to bring to a show, you should begin pruning seven to eight weeks before the show. Some varieties take a little longer and some will bloom sooner, but eight weeks is a good rule of thumb.

Herbs: Plant anise, borage, chives, chervil, coriander, fennel, garlic, lavender, marjoram, mint, parsley, rosemary, sage, sesame, sweet marjoram, and thyme.

Lawns: This is fertilize free month. Check the soil to determine water needs. When the grass blades fold it’s time to water. Water once every 10-14 days in the winter unless we receive rainfall. If mowing, keep your mower height at the highest level.

Perennials: Water during morning hours only, when surface soil is dry to the touch. Make sure you have 2-3 inches of mulch around the roots. Outdoor plants require less water in the winter months.

Trees: Remove dead limbs, trim off suckers, lanky growth, and crisscrossing limbs; remove old seedpods. Don’t perform major pruning on any flowering trees producing blooms during the spring months.

Vegetables: English peas, beets, broccoli, potatoes, cabbage, celery, carrots, bunching onions, radishes, turnips, and cauliflower can be planted now.
**February**

**Citrus:** Water as needed. Prune any water sprouts, suckers, rubbing or crossing branches. Weed as needed.

**Fruits:** Major removal of twigs and branches should occur before spring. Weed as needed. Check irrigation to ensure it is working. Make repairs.

**Flowers:** Remove all dead plant portions of annuals. Baby’s breath, calendulas, carnations, dianthus, dusty miller, Marguerite daisies, pansies, petunias, and snapdragons can be planted this month. Prune out declining foliage of bulbs as needed. Use insecticidal soap for aphids.

**Herbs:** Anise, basil, bay laurel, borage, caraway, cardamom, chervil, chives, coriander, dill, fennel, ginger, horehound, lemon balm, lavender, lovage, marjoram, Mexican tarragon, mint, nasturtium, parsley, oregano, rosemary, sage, savory, thyme and watercress can be planted now

**Roses:** Water as needed. Apply organic materials around each plant. 1 cup cow manure, 1 cup fish meal, ½ cup Epsom salts. Begin spray program every 7-10 Days with appropriate fungicide but remember to rotate types of fungicide; spray entire plant including underside of leaves.

**Lawns:** Cut St. Augustine lawns as needed; keep the mowing height highest level for your grass variety. Cutting grass too short encourages insect damage and disease. No fertilizer this month.

**Perennials:** Do not rush to prune out the dead or declining portions, as some cold may linger until March. Leaving dead portions on may provide some protection in case another freeze occurs.

**Ornamental grasses:** Remove all dead stems on deciduous grasses by cutting stems to 6-12 inches above ground. Remove only dead stems on evergreen ornamental grasses, leave green portions intact. Fertilize ornamental grasses at the end of this month!

**Trees:** Existing well-established trees and palms do not normally need special watering - the nearby irrigation of lawns, shrubs, and flower beds normally supply adequate moisture. Some exceptions may be dogwoods or red maples.

**Vegetables:** This month you can plant beets, broccoli, carrots, cabbage, collards, cauliflower, celery, endive/escarole, lettuce, mustard, bunching onions, parsley, turnips. Before you start your garden, be sure to have the soil tested. The University of Florida will do a full nutrient test for only $7. Come by the office to pick up a soil kit or call us at 904 879-1019 for more information. Put raked leaves and grass clippings in a compost pile. As they rot, they make an excellent organic material to add to the soil when planting vegetables and some ornamental plants.
**Citrus:** Remove graft freeze protection if threat of freeze is over. Fertilize program begins for lemon, orange, kumquat using citrus fertilizer. Follow fertilizer label for frequency (slow release is used less often). Fertilize Tea Olive using acid loving fertilizer. Fertilize loquat 2-3 times per year with citrus fertilizer. Check for citrus insects and disease, apply fungicide just at new leaf flush or after bloom drop.

**Fruit:** Apply general garden fertilizer to plum trees. Weed as needed. This is the time of year to prune muscadine grapes.

**Flowers:** Water as needed. Over-watering causes root and stem rot. Opt for drought tolerant plants such as purslane or periwinkle. Group your plants together according to their watering and light requirements. Bulbs will be in full bloom. To conserve plant energy, cut off the old seedpods after flowering. Fertilize perennials this month if you missed last month. Plant poinsettias in landscape during late March. Cut back plants to within 12 to 18 inches of ground level. Pinch back new growth every four weeks until September 10. Fertilize monthly from May to September. Ageratum, allysum, amaranthus, asters, baby’s breath, balsam, begonias, browallia, calendulas, calliopsis, celosia, coleus, cosmos, crossandras, dahlias, dusty miller, excums, gaillardias, gazania, geraniums, hollyhocks, impatiens, kalanchoee, lobelias, Marguerite daisies, marigolds, nicotine, ornamental peppers, pentas, phlox, rudbeckia, salvias, strawflowers, streptocarpus, sweet William, thunbergia alata, torenia, verbenas, periwinkles, and zinnias can be planted.

**Herbs:** Anise, basil, bay laurel, borage, caraway, cardamom, chervil, chives, coriander, culantro, cumin, dill, fennel, ginger, horehound, lemon balm, lavender, lovage, marjoram, Mexican tarragon, mint, parsley, oregano, rosemary, sage, savory, sesame, thyme and watercress can be planted now.

**Roses:** Continue spray program (every 7-10 days). Water as needed. March 15, apply liquid fertilizer. Check your micro irrigation system (leaks, dirt in system, timers)

**Lawns:** This is the last month to put out pre-emergent herbicides to manage summer weeds. Wait to fertilize when grass is actively growing and it has required two mowings. We suggest you start fertilizing after April 15th.

**Shrubs:** Prune and fertilize azaleas with acid fertilizer as soon as they finish blooming. Azaleas may be transplanted now as well. Overgrown shrubs can be cut back using selective pruning, avoid shearing these shrubs. Dr. Ed Gilman’s UF/IFAS publication on pruning shrubs and trees is an excellent source of information: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg087

**Trees:** Make sure younger trees maintain a straight trunk as new growth begins. Remove or prune all limbs competing with the central leader. Palms should have a “palm special” fertilizer applied over the root system under the spread of the fronds. The configuration should be 8-2-12-4 (N-P-K-Mg). Ideally this would also include manganese, boron, sulfur, etc. with appropriate formulations. Use a slow release fertilizer during the spring, summer and fall. Nutrient deficiencies may take months to recover so please use an appropriate palm fertilizer. Anything within 30-50 feet of the palm should just be getting palm fertilizer.

**Vegetables:** Have soil tested prior to planting. The pH and the nutrient content of the soil is an important factor in production of vegetables. This month’s choices for planting include snap beans, pole beans, lima beans, beets, cantaloupe, carrots, celery, collards, corn, cucumber, eggplant, endive/escarole, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, okra, bunching onions, parsley, English peas, Southern peas, peppers, potatoes, sweet potatoes, pumpkin, radishes, summer squash, winter squash, tomatoes, turnips, and watermelon. Be sure to use the Florida Vegetable Guide when selecting the best cultivars for our area: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021.
**Citrus:** Depending on citrus fertilizer label, apply fertilizer every six weeks or as directed. Check for citrus insects; apply horticulture oil if insects are detected. Check for diseases; apply fungicide just at new leaf flush or after bloom drop. Maintain 2-3’ unmulched area just outside the root ball (which would be 12-18 inches away from the trunk).

**Fruit:** Weed as needed. Apply Azalea fertilizer to blueberry shrubs, at 1/2 pound per 3’ of shrub. Granular fertilizer may require about 1/4 inch of water to allow the root to absorb the nutrients.

**Flowers:** Annuals to plant now include celosia, coleus, coreopsis, dusty miller, geraniums, hollyhocks, impatiens, kalanchoe, lobelias, marigolds, portulacas, rudbeckias, salvias, verbenas, zinnias. Groom to re-shape perennials. Prune hard to correct growth problems. Divide overcrowded fall flowering perennials and bulbs. Bulbs to be planted now include achimenes, agapanthus, amaryllis, Asiatic lilies, begonias, blood lily, caladiums, cannas, crinum, dahlia, gladiolus, gloriosa lily and zephyranthes.

**Herbs:** Anise, basil, bay laurel, borage, caraway, cardamom, chervil, chives, coriander, culantro, cumin, dill, garlic, ginger, horehound, lemon balm, lavender, marjoram, Mexican tarragon, mint, nasturtium, parsley, oregano, rosemary, sage, sesame, and thyme can be planted now.

**Roses:** Begin watching roses for black spot fungus disease, small black spots on the leaves can quickly worsen. Continue spray program. Water as needed. April 15, apply granular rose fertilizer. Cut and remove spent blooms. Check for spider mites (wash underside of leaves with strong water pressure). Add mulch, 2-3 inches deep (oak leaves, cedar pine straw).

**Lawns:** Apply 15-0-15 or 16-0-8 on the 15th of this month. Water during early morning when the leaves curl and turn gray-green. Reduce fertilizers and pesticides during seasons of drought. Keep mower height at the highest setting for grass type. Apply no more than 1 inch of sand to uneven areas for leveling. Allow grass clippings to stay on the lawn as long as grass is healthy.

**Trees:** Most older trees and palms are fine and can exist with the seasonal rains. Look for aphid, borer, and scale infestations. Caterpillars may be extra heavy this month. Continue fertilizing palms as needed.

**Vegetables:** This month you can plant snap beans, pole beans, lima beans, cantaloupe, collards, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, kohlrabi, okra, Southern peas, pumpkin, peppers, squash, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, turnips, watermelon, and yams.
**MAY CHECKLIST**

**Citrus:** Depending on citrus fertilizer label, apply fertilizer every six weeks or as directed. Check for citrus insects; apply ultra fine or all season horticulture oil before 10 am and in early evening if insects are detected. Check for disease; apply fungicide just at new leaf flush or after bloom drop. Maintain 2-3’ unmulched area around citrus trees.

**Fruit:** Weed as needed. Apply 6-6-6 or 8-8-8 fertilizer if appropriate. Check irrigation to ensure it is working. Make repairs.

**Flowers:** Annuals to plant this month are celosia, coleus, coreopsis, crossandras, gaillardias, gazanias, hollyhocks, impatiens, kalanchoe, marigolds, nicotianas, ornamental peppers, pentas, portulacas, salvia, thunbergia alata, torenias, verbenas, periwinkles, and zinnias.

**Herbs:** Anise, basil, bay laurel, borage, caraway, cardamom, chervil, chives, coriander, culantro, dill, ginger, horehound, lemon balm, lavender, marjoram, Mexican tarragon, mint, parsley, oregano, rosemary, sesame, and thyme can be planted now.


**Lawns:** Check St. Augustine for chinch bugs. It is the beginning of mole cricket season for bahia, Bermuda, and zoysia lawns. The mole crickets have been busy laying eggs which will start hatching this month. Fertilize with 15-0-15 or 16-4-8 this month. Water restrictions (city water or wells) allow odd numbered houses to water Wed. & Saturday; even numbered houses – Thurs. & Sunday. Non-residential properties water on Tues. & Friday. Remember small amounts of fertilizer work best. Too much nitrogen can attract insects and disease.

**Trees:** Some magnolias may drop their leaves during the spring months. This is normal, as they replenish foliage. Palms should have a “palm special” fertilizer applied over the root system under the spread of the fronds. The configuration should be 8-2-12-4 (N-P-K-Mg). Ideally this would also include manganese, boron, sulfur, etc. with appropriate formulations. Use slow release fertilizer if pH is acid, use quick release for alkaline or high pH soils. Many palms are deficient in potassium, in spite of using palm fertilizers. Apply Muriate of Potash to correct this deficiency.

**Vegetables:** Scout for insects and hand remove if possible. Check the underside of leaves for eggs and aphids. Remember some insects are predators. These predators are important part of keeping the pests from totally taking over vegetables. Vegetables to plant this month are lima beans, eggplant, okra, Southern peas, and sweet potatoes.
June Checklist

Citrus: Depending on citrus fertilizer label, apply fertilizer every six weeks or as directed. Check for citrus insects; apply ultra fine or all season horticulture oil before 10 am and in early evening if insects are detected. Check for disease; apply appropriate fungicide. Weed as needed.

Fruit: Summer pruning to include water sprouts, and fire blight infected wood. Be sure to clean pruners between cuts using alcohol, bleach or Lysol on the blades to prevent transmitting diseases. Apply 6-6-6 or 8-8-8 fertilizer to pears and plums. Apply azalea fertilizer to blueberry shrubs at 1/2 lb per 3’ of shrub. Weed as needed.

Flowers: If growth appears too slow and the foliage turns yellow, they may need fertilizer. Too much growth and a lack of flowers indicates the plants have all the nutrients they need and you can reduce nitrogen. Globe amaranth, melampodium, pentas, portulaca, purslane, salvia, zinnia, lantana, buddleia, daylily, verbena, purple coneflower, plumbago, and sun coleus can be planted in full sun. Plant agapanthus, blackberry lily, clivia, gloriosa lily, achimenes, crinum, and iris.

Herbs: Bay laurel, culantro, ginger, horehound, lavender, mexican tarragon, mint, parsley, oregano, rosemary, sesame, and thyme can be planted now.


Lawns: Keep mower blades sharp (once a month is a good rule). Mow the lawn on the highest height for each species – never cut it too short.

Perennials: Some pests to check for are grasshoppers and katydids. Both may be chewing holes in plant leaves. Try to handpick them from the plants, or if needed, use a synthetic insecticide as instructed on the label for chewing insects.

Trees: Pests may be noticed in many trees. Their damage is minimal and sprays are seldom needed. Look for aphids, borers, mites, etc.

Vegetables: June is not the best month to be starting a garden or planting new crops. Wait until August before putting in new plants. You may still plant tomatoes in containers if you want something to harvest. This is a good month to solarize your garden to fight against nematodes and disease causing fungi.
**July Checklist**

**Citrus:** Depending on citrus fertilizer label, apply fertilizer every six weeks or as directed. Check for citrus insects and disease. If adding horticulture oil or insecticidal soap be sure to use it only before 10am or after 6pm. Also be sure to use ultra-fine horticulture oil rather than dormant oil. Weed as needed, keep mulch away from trunk. Water once a week unless it rains.

**Fruit:** Remove about 1/4 to 1/5 of the oldest blueberry canes (usually 1 to 3 of the oldest canes.) Apply 6-6-6 or 8-8-8 fertilizer to nectarine. Weed as needed.

**Flowers:** Annuals to plant include celosia, coleus, crossandras, exacum, impatiens, kalanchoe, nicotiana, ornamental peppers, portulaca, torneias, salvia, and periwinkle.

**Bulbs:** Separate bulbs and give away to friends. Bulbs planted too deeply need to be removed. Transplant bulbs if the area is receiving too much water.

**Herbs:** Bay laurel, culantro, ginger, horehound, lavender, Mexican tarragon, mint, parsley, oregano, rosemary, sesame, and thyme can be planted now.

**Roses:** Continue spray program. Water, water, water. Cut and remove spent blooms. Check for spider mites and aphids.

**Lawns:** Add iron sulfate to green up lawn but avoid high nitrogen fertilization or high amounts this month. “Take-all-root-rot” will be in full force during the summer - be sure to avoid over watering and over fertilizing.

**Perennials:** Cut off old flower heads, prune off dead or insect infested areas, and pinch off tips of stems to encourage denser growth.

**Trees:** Remove crape myrtle seed heads to encourage blooming through September. Remove old flower and seed stalks. Prune now for trees flowering in the winter. Palms should have a “palm special” fertilizer applied over the root system under the spread of the fronds. The configuration should be 8-2-12-4 (N-P-K-Mg). Ideally this would also include manganese, boron, sulfur, etc. with appropriate formulations. Use a slow release fertilizer. Many palms are deficient in potassium, in spite of using palm fertilizers. Apply Muriate of Potash to correct this deficiency.

**Vegetables:** It’s too hot to be planting anything now but lima beans, eggplant, okra, Southern peas, peppers, and watermelon. However, this is a good month to solarize your fall garden. Till your plot, moisten the soil, cover the ground with clear plastic. Place heavy objects around the edges to keep the plastic from blowing away. Let the sun bake your soil. It will help control fungi and nematodes. After 30 days till soil, replace the plastic and bake another few weeks. Plant your August or September garden.
**Citrus:** Depending on citrus fertilizer label, apply fertilizer every six weeks or as directed. Check for citrus insects and disease. Weed as needed, keep mulch away from trunk and grass out beneath the canopy. Water once a week unless it rains.

**Fruit:** Apply azalea fertilizer to blueberry shrubs, at 1/2 pound per 3 feet of shrub. Weed as needed. Check irrigation to ensure it is working. Make repairs.

**Flowers:** Plant asters, balsam, begonias, black-eyed Susan, blue daze, cats whiskers, coleus, cosmos, cockscombs, dianthus, forget-me-not, gaillardia, golden globe impatiens, marigolds, melampodium, moon vine, pentas, periwinkles, petunias, phlox, porterweed, portulaca, purslane, salvias, scabiosa, strawflowers, sunflowers, tithonias, torenia, verbena, and zinnias.

**Roses:** Repeat July procedures. Water, water, water.

**Bulbs:** Plant African Iris, agapanthus, amaryllis, cannas, crinums, daylilies, gladioli, gloriosa lilies, society garlic, and rain lilies (Zephyranthes).

**Herbs:** Bay laurel, culantro, ginger, horehound, lavender, mexican tarragon, mint, parsley, oregano, rosemary, sesame, and thyme can be planted now.

**Lawns:** There is still time to install a seeded lawn but do not delay. Select good quality seed such as Argentine Bahia, common bermudagrass or centipede. Initially the seeds need to remain moistened but once they have germinated irrigation can be reduced. These grasses do well without heavy irrigation and high nitrogen fertilizers. They turn brown earlier than St. Augustinegrass in the winter. Contact your local Extension service regarding a test for your soil pH. Common bermudagrass has a wide range of pH numbers; bahia and centipede prefer acid soils so be sure to have soil tested before investing in a new lawn.

**Perennials:** Start salvia, violets, ruellia, lion’s ear, gerbera daisy, butterfly weed, and blanket flower from saved seeds. Let seeds dry on the plants. When pods open, dry seeds inside on screen or cheesecloth. Put into a plastic bag or a jar and label. Keep the seeds in the vegetable section of the refrigerator. Use within one year. Do not store in the freezer!

**Trees:** Cut back unwanted limbs to a branch angle or the trunk. Remove old fronds and seed stalks from palms. Do not apply paints or coverings to wounds. Remove old seedheads from crape myrtle trees to encourage additional blooms.

**Vegetables:** To produce fruit August plantings are especially important for corn, eggplant, pumpkins, peppers, tomatoes, and watermelons. Each of these crops takes about 90 days to come to fruition. Do not wait too late, or an early frost may reduce the yield. Other cold tolerant veggies to plant include snap beans, pole beans, lima beans, broccoli, cauliflower, collards, corn, cucumber, bunching onions, Southern peas, peppers, pumpkin, summer squash, tomatoes, turnips, and watermelons. One pest to be especially aware of is the cutworm.
Citrus: Depending on citrus fertilizer label, apply fertilizer every six weeks or as directed. Check for citrus insects and disease. Weed as needed. Water as needed. Last month to fertilize citrus.

Fruit: Weed as needed.

Flowers: For instant color plant marigolds and garden chrysanthemums.

Bulbs: Bulbs to plant now include amaryllis, Aztec lily, calla, elephant ears, grape hyacinth, iris, leopard lily, narcissus, snowflake, watsonia, and zephyr lily.

Roses: Apply organic materials (same as February). Water, water, water. September 1, apply granular rose fertilizer. September 1, prune back just beyond previous cut (about 1/3 down the stem).

Herbs: Plant anise, basil, borage, chervil, marjoram, parsley, sesame, and thyme.

Lawns: Use a slow release fertilizer such as 15-0-15. Most Florida soils are high in phosphorous, the middle number, so this nutrient is rarely needed. Keep mower heights on highest level all year to promote deep roots. Watch for large patch fungus disease, which attacks lawns when the weather is cool and wet. It is most commonly found in St. Augustine, centipede and Bermuda lawns. The grass dies in roughly circular areas 5 to 6 feet in diameter. In St. Augustine grass, the leaf blades rot where they attach to the runner. Apply an approved lawn fungicide according to label directions.

Perennials: This is the time of year to prune. When pruning, make cuts back to the branch angle, or to the ground. If you want the plant to fill in from the base, make the cut about 1 foot above where you want the new branches to begin.

Trees: Palms should have a “palm special” fertilizer applied over the root system under the spread of the fronds. The configuration should be 8-2-12-4 (N-P-K-Mg). Ideally this would also include manganese, boron, sulfur, etc. with appropriate formulations. Use a slow release fertilizer. If not using slow release, make monthly applications during the warmer months. Many palms are deficient in potassium, in spite of using palm fertilizers. Apply Muriate of Potash to correct this deficiency. For fall color plant deciduous trees such as bald cypress, Chickasaw plum, crape myrtle, redbud, red maple, river birch, sugarberry, sweet gum and winged elm. Trees to plant include black olive, dogwood, golden raintree, hollies, loquat, southern juniper, sugarberry, and wax myrtle.

Vegetables: Snap beans, pole beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive/escarole, lettuce, cucumber, bulbing onions, bunching onions, radishes, summer squash, and turnips.
Citrus: Check for citrus insects and disease. Apply horticulture oil if insects are detected. Weed as needed.

Fruit: Weed as needed. Apply azalea fertilizer to blueberry shrubs at 1/2 pound per 3’ of shrub

Flowers: Buy spring flowering bulbs (narcissus, tulips, etc.) and store in the refrigerator for 60 days. Plant bulbs immediately upon removal. Keep them away from ripening fruit during storage. Plant cool season flowers like dianthus, pansy, petunia, shasta daisy, snapdragon, viola, million bells, status, thunbergia, flowering kale and cabbage. Bulbs to plant include agapanthus, gladiolus, kaffir lily, marica, moraea, society garlic, spider lily, anemone, hyacinth, pineapple lily and Star-of-Bethlehem.

Roses: Continue spray program. Water, water, water. Cut and remove spent blooms. Fertilize with liquid fertilizer (same as March)

Herbs: Anise, basil, bay laurel, borage, caraway, cardamom, chervil, chives, coriander, dill, fennel, garlic, ginger, horehound, lemon balm, lavender, lovage, marjoram, Mexican tarragon, mint, nasturtium, oregano, rosemary, sage, savory, thyme and watercress can be planted now.

Lawns: Do not fertilize the lawn this late in the year. For a green winter lawn that will have to be mowed, overseed with annual ryegrass. Watch for large patch fungus disease, chinch bugs, sod web-worms, army worms, and mole crickets.

Trees: You can remove diseased or dead limbs any time of year. If you plant a tree this month, remember water is the most important part of early tree care. Be sure to dig the hole wider than deep. Do not fertilize now, wait until next spring. Let the tree put its effort into producing roots.

Vegetables: Plant strawberries in late October through November. Plant in rows 36” apart and 12” apart within the row. Elevate rows 6” above existing soil to ensure good drainage. Use pine straw to reduce weed problems and slugs. Beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, collards, kohlrabi, bulbing onions, bunching onions, radishes, spinach, and turnips may also be planted this month.
NOVEMBER

**Citrus:** Weed as needed. Protect above and below grafted area if hard freeze occurs which is 28 degrees for 4 or more hours.

**Fruit:** Weed as needed.

**Flowers:** Sow seeds of larkspur, bachelor’s buttons, sweet peas, and California poppies in full sun for a colorful spring show. Set out hardy plants such as sweet alyssum, petunia, dianthus, and snapdragon.

**Roses:** Continue spray program. Water, water, water. Cut and remove spent blooms. DO NOT fertilize. Have soil tested, especially pH. Make necessary soil corrections.

**Herbs:** Anise, basil, bay laurel, borage, caraway, cardamom, chervil, chives, coriander, dill, fennel, garlic, ginger, horehound, lemon balm, lavender, lovage, marjoram, Mexican tarragon, mint, nasturtium, oregano, rosemary, sage, savory, thyme and watercress can be planted now.

**Lawns:** Avoid the temptation to apply winter fertilizers in NE Florida. Check your mower. Resharpen blades, change the oil, and clean mower of debris.

**Perennials:** Plant now for fall color. Mexican bush sage has spikes of purple-and-white flowers that will wave in the wind. Pineapple sage has brilliant red blooms and leaves each with the hint of pineapple aroma. Firespike with its red bloom spikes is great for partial shade. Philippine violet brightens fall days with its lavender flowers. The brilliant yellow of swamp sunflower will stop traffic a block away. Cigar flower has an abundant display of small orange-and-yellow, tubular blooms.

**Trees:** If you are planting a new tree, staking may not be necessary. New trees become stronger if some movement is allowed. Planting too deeply causes future problems. Plant trees so the top root is just at or slightly above soil level. Irrigate well to encourage root development.

**Vegetables:** Keep crops picked to encourage new production. Irrigate during morning hours (6-10 AM) with drip irrigation to discourage disease. Hardy veggies to plant now include beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, Chinese cabbage, collards, kohlrabi, bulbing and bunching onions, radishes and spinach.
**Annuals:** Plant carnations, digitalis, pansies, petunias, shasta daisies, and snapdragons this month.

**Bulbs:** Check for declining plant portions and pests. Examine bulbs in storage and remove adhering soil or damaged portions. Consider replacing any bulbs which show discoloring sections as this may indicate fungal disease.

**Roses:** Water as needed. Continue spray program, if fungi or pests are present.

**Citrus:** Weed as needed. Protect grafted area if freeze occurs. If you think a freeze is coming: Leave the fruit on the tree. It may not freeze, and if it does, you still have several weeks to make juice or use the fruit before it deteriorates. The rule for fruit still on the tree is to consider it edible if it looks, smells, and tastes good. Leave the fruit on the tree if you suspect it is still not ripe. Fruit that has been frozen will develop white spots on the membranes between the sections and should be used as soon as possible.

**Fruit:** Weed as needed. DO NOT cut blooms. DO not fertilize.

**Herbs:** Anise, basil, bay laurel, borage, caraway, cardamom, chervil, chives, coriander, dill, fennel, ginger, horehound, lemon balm, lavender, lovage, marjoram, Mexican tarragon, mint, nasturtium, oregano, rosemary, sage, savory, thyme and watercress can be planted now.

**Lawns:** Do not apply fertilizer or any nitrogen this time of year, wait until grass is fully growing and any cold temperatures have passed. Keep mowing height the same year round. Water 1/4 to 3/4 inch every 10-14 days if we receive no rain.

**Trees and Shrubs:** Late December is the ideal time to begin transplanting plants if the weather has turned cool. It is best to transplant trees and shrubs after they have gone into dormancy. Prune roots two to three months before digging by severing roots with a spade just inside the intended root ball to generate new root hairs and reduce transplant shock. Be sure to keep plants out of the ground as little time as possible. Do not put any amendments in the transplant hole, simply keep the plant irrigated well for 3-4 months.

**Vegetables:** Choices for this month include beets, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, Chinese cabbage, English peas, onions, and radishes.