

The SEASIDE Gardener

NOVEMBER 2022

How to Prep Your
November Garden

Plant, Eat & Fertilize

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“In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water.”

— DOUG TALLAMY

WORLD SOIL DAY DEC 5

Sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN, World Soil Day is held annually as a means to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and advocating for the sustainable management of soil resources.

—SOIL: THE ESSENCE OF THE GARDEN—

A better understanding of soil and how to add life to the soil (and plants) for healthy plants is the essence of everything plant-

based. This guide, provided by the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) [Extension in Brevard](#) County explains it all. Read about the rock stars of the dirt. Download the guide and save it!

Get the dirt on dirt right [here!](#)



—WHAT TO PLANT NOW—

ANNUAL FLOWERS

Cool weather annuals to plant this month include: *alyssum*, *calendula*, *chrysanthemum*, *dianthus*, *flowering*

tobacco, *pansy*, *petunia*, *phlox*, *snapdragon*, *stock*, *viola*, *verbena*, *nasturtium*, *plectranthus* (see pg 7) and *flowering kale*.

SEE Annuals: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/annual_landscape_plants

BULBS

Many bulbs like to get their start in cool weather. Bulbs to consider planting this month include: *Agapanthus*, *African iris*, *amaryllis* (these make great Christmas gifts), *Aztec lily*, *calla*, *crinum*, *Kaffir lily* (*Clivia*), *day lily* (*Hemerocallis* spp.), *narcissus*, *Elephant ears* (*Acacia*, *Colocasia* and *Xanthosoma*), *hurricane lily*, *society garlic*, *snowflake*, *shell ginger*, *walking iris* (*Neomarica gracilis*) and *Watsonia Iris* (*Iris* spp.) Grow native iris or Louisiana iris and their hybrids because German or Japanese iris do not grow well here,

rain lily (*Zephyranthes*) and spider lily (*Hymenocallis* spp).

SEE Bulbs for Florida: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/bulbous_flowers

VEGETABLES

Cool weather vegetables to plant in November include: arugula, beets, broccoli, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, collards, kale, kohlrabi, lettuces, mustard, all types of onions, English peas, radish, spinach, and turnips.

SEE Vegetable Gardening in Florida: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/vegetable_gardening



HERBS

Continue planting herbs from seeds or setting out purchased plants. For the cool weather herb garden include: chives, garlic chives, fennel, rosemary, sage, lemon grass, salad burnet, lavender, dill, Greek oregano, lemon balm, lavender, Mexican tarragon, chervil, cilantro and thyme.

SEE Herbs: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

STRAWBERRIES

This is the last month to set out strawberries.

SEE: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS403>



—WHAT TO DO NOW—

You may feel like making some changes in your yard now that it's cooler. If some of your annuals or vegetables are doing poorly, replant with some of the cool-season choices listed above. October's generous rainfall encouraged growth of both desirable plants and weeds, so plan on some judicial pruning of shrubs, deadheading flowers and removing weeds or at least removing their blooms to keep them from going to seed. Check for dead or diseased branches in trees and shrubs and remove. *Do not prune deciduous fruit trees until winter.*

Check your vegetable plants and any young transplants daily to make sure they are healthy. Do the rounds of your potted plants monitoring for stress, disease and insects so you can treat a min or problem rather than risk losing a plant.

Give vegetable plants some granular fertilizer monthly. Once your vegetable plants are flowering and producing

begin spraying fish emulsion and Maxicrop seaweed on both sides of foliage every week or ten days.

PERENNIALS

Divide and replant overgrown perennials and bulbs now so that they establish before the coolest weather arrives.

SEE Seeds and Propagation (Lawn and Garden): https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/garden_propagation

Perennial Garden Design
<https://www.hgtv.com/outdoors/gardens/garden-styles-and-types/perennial-garden-design>



THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO DIVIDING PLANTS

Plant division is easy way to ensure plant multiplication. Any plant that has more than one central stalk is a candidate for plant division. These include most perennials such as day lilies, iris, phlox, coneflowers, black eyed Susan, asters, and astilbes.

Learn the technique for each type of plant you want to propagate. <https://www.finegardening.com/collection/ultimate-guide-dividing-plants>

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Manatee County Extension

Pruning Hardwood Trees in your Florida Yard

Pruning Objectives

When pruning a hardwood tree, you should always consider your long term goals. Trees will remain in the landscape for decades, potentially hundreds of years. Any damage done now can impact a tree for its entire lifespan. Developing pruning objectives can help you make the right cut, the first time. Think about how that tree might interact with hard infrastructure, other trees or desired plants in the landscape. The following are appropriate reasons to prune your tree:

- Dead, Diseased, Declining
- Height reduction
- Correct structural issues
- Crossing/rubbing branches
- Encouraging flowering/fruiting
- Opening the canopy

Trees don't need pruning unless a problem exists, if you don't know how to tell if your existing trees are healthy, reach out to your local Extension office.

Pruning Dos

- **Right Tool for the job**
 - » Sharp
 - » Appropriate size
 - » User comfort and familiarity
- **Prune selectively**
- **Make a clean cut**
 - » Don't let the bark tear
 - » Ideal shape of wound is circular

Pruning Do Nots

- Do not leave stubs!
- Do not cut into the branch collar
- Do not cover wounds with paint/tar etc.

If you don't know what/how to prune you should probably hire an arborist

- [Treesaregood.com](https://www.treesaregood.com)

To avoid flush cuts, do not cut into the branch collar.

Branch bark ridge
Branch collar

An Equal Opportunity Institution.
March 2022

POINSETTIAS

Watch for hornworms on poinsettias (and tomatoes). This pest can quickly defoliate a plant. **SEE** Poinsettias: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/EP349>

Remember, no nighttime light for poinsettias, Christmas cactus, and kalanchoe.

SCALE INSECTS

Apply horticultural oil sprays to control scale insects.

SEE Landscape Pest Management: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/landscape_pests

Organic Control - Ladybugs prefer to eat aphids and will devour up to 50 a day, but they will also attack scale, mealy bugs, boil worms, leafhopper,

and corn ear worm. They dine only on insects and do not harm vegetation.

SEE <https://blog.bugsforgrowers.com/natural-predators/ladybugs-can-control-of-aphids-mealybugs-mites-scales-and-thrips/>

LADYBUGS have a variety of names—ladybird, ladybeetle—but they all refer to this family of beetles. There are around 6,000 species of ladybugs worldwide and 98 species of ladybugs in Florida. Ladybugs are oval, small, often brightly-colored insects that are toxic to would-be predators.



LAWNS

As the weather cools, you may

only need to mow every two weeks. Don't wait too long or remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade when you mow. Watch for brown patch and large patch as these fungal diseases cause areas of grass to turn brown when the soil temperature, measured 2-4 in. deep, is between 65°F and 75°F and go dormant when the weather warms in May. Since treatment is difficult, prevention is key.

SEE Turf Diseases: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/turf_diseases

OVERSEEDING LAWNS FOR WINTER

Overseeding your lawn with rye, at the end of November, is a great way to add organic matter to the soil. **WEB**



Mockingbird Feeding on Beautyberry

The mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) is Florida's state bird. This lucky mockingbird enjoys the purple fruit of the American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*).

FOR THE THANKSGIVING TABLE

*Sicilian Fennel & Orange Salad
with Red Onion & Olives*

In 1824, Thomas Jefferson received a variety of seeds from his friend, the writer Thomas Appleton in Naples. He found the Italian broccoli and cauliflower superior, but saved his highest praise for the fennel. *“The fennel is beyond every other vegetable, delicious. It greatly resembles in appearance the largest size celery, perfectly white, and there is no vegetable equals it in flavor. It is eaten at dessert, crude, and with, or without dry salt. Indeed I preferred it to every other vegetable or to any fruit.”* I wonder if he knew that fennel is the nectar plant of the swallowtail butterfly.

This delicious fennel salad goes well with turkey. Use blood oranges if available, but navel oranges work just as well.

INGREDIENTS

- One-half small red onion
- 2 large navel oranges or blood oranges
- 2 to 3 small fennel bulbs, trimmed (about 1 lb. total after trimming)
- 1/2 cup kalamata olives
- 3 Tbs. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1-1/2 Tbs. fresh lemon juice
- 3/4 tsp. kosher salt
- 3 Tbs. chopped fresh mint
- Freshly ground black pepper

PREPARATION

- Slice the onion half lengthwise as thinly as possible. Put it in a bowl of cold water to mellow its flavor and keep it crisp. Refrigerate for at least 15 minutes.
- Working with one orange at a time, slice off both ends. Set the orange on a cutting board, one cut side down. With a sharp knife, cut away the peel (the zest and white pith) by slicing from top to bottom, following the contour of the orange. Working over a bowl to collect any juice, release the orange segments by carefully



cutting them away from the membrane that separates them. Remove any seeds and put the orange segments in another bowl, separate from the juice. Squeeze the membranes over the juice bowl.

- Cut the fennel in quarters lengthwise and then trim away most of the core, leaving just enough intact to keep the layers together. Slice quarters lengthwise as thinly as possible.
- With a paring knife, slice the olive flesh off the pits lengthwise. In a small bowl, whisk together the olive oil, lemon juice, and salt. (*The recipe can be prepared up to this point several hours in advance. If working ahead, wrap and refrigerate the fennel; don't chop the mint until just before serving.*)
- Drain the sliced onion and toss it with the fennel. Put the fennel and onion in a shallow salad bowl or on a rimmed serving platter. Drizzle with the reserved orange juice. Arrange the orange segments on top and sprinkle with the olives and mint.
- Drizzle dressing evenly over the salad. Add several grinds of black pepper before serving. Serve this salad with roasted or grilled seafood.

—Adapted from Fine Cooking

IRRIGATION

Turn off systems and water as needed. Plant growth slows so they need less supplemental watering in cooler weather. Run through your system, turning off zones that don't need supplemental irrigation and adjusting nozzles to accommodate changes in plant height that may block water reaching lower plants.

SEE Landscape Irrigation: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/landscape_irrigation

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Indialantic is a bird sanctuary and literally hundreds of birds can be found passing through on their way further south. Fill bird feeders to help them on their way and to catch a glimpse of these amazing seasonal visitors. Orlando Park is a prime viewing spot. On many days this fall I've seen birders at the park, identifiable by their binoculars. [For more on this topic, read the October edition [online](#).]

[Migratory Bird Dashboard](#)

ORCHIDS

Now is a good time to start repotting Cattleyas, Oncidiums, Dendrobiums and Cymbidiums. Dr. Martin Motes has wonderful month-by-month notes on how to care for your orchids, but don't let the information overwhelm you. I don't fertilize my orchids and seldom water them. Most grow on trees and they seem to do fine and reward my neglect with beautiful blooms.

November in your orchid collection:
<https://www.motesorchids.com/fogblog/2022/11/5/november-in-your-orchid-collection>

Read about how to protect your orchids from potential cold and wind:
<https://www.motesorchids.com/fogblog/2017/11/3/november-in-your-orchid-collection>



[READ the history of Thanksgiving from the History Channel.](#)



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Plectranthus *Mona Lavender* (aka spurflower), with its colorful foliage and profuse lavender blossoms, is an herbaceous perennial that flourishes during our cooler, shorter days. Mona Lavender prefers partial shade in rich moist soil with good drainage. Pinch the stems to keep a bushy rounded form. Cuttings root quickly in water. An excellent bedding plant, Mona Lavender adds rich color when flowering plants may not be in bloom and it stands out in container plantings and pairs well with its coleus cousins. Both are members of the Lamiaceae super-family of plants, which includes over 3,200 species of plants. Commonly known as the mint family it includes the mints, sage, coleus, salvia, lavender, verbena, thyme, rosemary, oregano, marjoram, monarda and more.



Kiss The Ground – “Inspires a rare feeling of hope” [NY Times]

Watch **Kiss The Ground**, a marvelous documentary starring Woody Harrelson in which science experts and celebrity activists unpack the ways in which the earth’s soil may be the key to combating climate change and preserving the planet. Available on Netflix and other streaming platforms.

Trailer: <https://kissthegroundmovie.com/>

This movie is positioned to catalyze a movement to accomplish the impossible—to solve humanity’s greatest challenge—to balance the climate and secure our species future.

Narrated and featuring Woody Harrelson, *Kiss the Ground* is an inspiring and groundbreaking film that reveals the first viable solution to our climate crisis. It reveals that, by regenerating the world’s soils, we can completely and rapidly stabilize Earth’s climate, restore lost ecosystems and create abundant food supplies. Using compelling graphics and visuals, along with striking NASA and NOAA footage, the film artfully illustrates how, by drawing down atmospheric carbon, soil is the missing piece of the climate puzzle.

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UF RESOURCES FOR GARDENERS

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

<https://fpl.ifas.ufl.edu/>

FruitScapes

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/fruitscapes>

Gardening Solutions:

<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/>