

OCTOBER CHECKLIST

CITRUS: Check for citrus insects and disease. Apply horticulture oil if insects are detected. Weed as needed. Consistent watering is critical - but NEVER over water.

FRUIT: Blueberries can begin fertilization program using acid loving fertilizer in February, April, June, August and October in small amounts. Apply general garden fertilizer to plum trees. Weed as needed.

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 if sufficient rain does not occur. 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 but it is perfectly acceptable to allow the grass to go dormant from late October through February/early March. Watch for large patch fungus disease, chinch bugs, sod webworms, 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.



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