

Katherine LaRosa is a Master Gardener volunteer with the

## November in the Tallahassee Garden



*Photo by Paul Brock, Tallahassee Nurseries: Rubra camellia*

*Katherine LaRosa is a Master Gardener volunteer with the University of Florida IFAS Extension in Leon County ,  
<http://leon.ifas.ufl.edu/>*

**H**oliday distractions begin in November but now is a great time for planting, especially before the first frost which will likely occur by the end of the month or in early December. This is a dry time of year. Continue to water when it is very dry. New plantings will especially need regular watering or the limited root system of the new plants will dry out quickly. Water for new plants should be directed right at the rootball and not further out.

**Shrubs and Trees:** Camellias are blooming now through early spring. To decide which cultivar(s) you might want to plant, visit Maclay Gardens or local nurseries. Camellias require well-drained soil and light shade, such as under high pine trees. Plant pyracantha, hollies, and American beautyberry, which have berries provide that provide bright, winter interest. Check existing camellias, gardenias, and fruit trees for scale underneath the leaves or on the stems. If scale is present, use a horticultural oil spray according to label directions.

**Annuals and Perennials:** Most perennials can be planted now. It's not too late to divide and transplant perennials. Sow wildflower seeds and seeds of other spring blooming annuals such as sweet peas, Oriental poppies, California poppies, Shirley poppies, sweet peas, nasturtium, larkspur, and bachelor buttons. Set out bedding plants of pansies, snapdragons, petunias, dianthus, ornamental cabbage and kale. Pinching back annuals after planting will create bushier plants and encourage better root growth. Keep your annuals well mulched, fertilize with a light application of a slow-release fertilizer at planting and keep them well watered, especially prior to cold snaps. Cut back chrysanthemums after they have finished blooming.

**Bulbs, Corms and Tubers:** Refrigerate hyacinths, tulips and crocuses for at least six weeks before planting. These, along with anemones and ranunculus, are annuals in our area and new bulbs have to be replanted each year. Also plant daffodils or narcissus, Dutch iris, and zephyranthes bulbs.

**Lawn care:** If you have areas under trees and shrubs that look thin and weak, your lawn may be trying to tell you something. Try leaving the fallen leaves and pine straw in these areas and blowing leaves from the healthy areas of the lawn into these weak areas, creating self-mulching beds. You may also wish to plant shade-tolerant

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groundcovers in these areas. If you want to apply a pre-emergent herbicide, such as atrazine, to your lawn for weed control you need to do it now, before mid-November.

**Vegetables and Herbs:** Plant mustard, turnips, shallots, cabbage, spinach, collards, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, radishes, lettuce, garlic, strawberries and kale. Plant sage and lavender. They prefer the milder, drier weather of fall and winter but need protection during our coldest periods. Parsley and rosemary also grow well and make pretty additions to the flower or vegetable garden. Cabbageworms chew holes in broccoli, collards, and cabbage. Control with a product containing BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). Aphids and mites on vegetables can be controlled with insecticidal soap sprayed on the tops and undersides of leaves.

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