

## November in the Tallahassee Garden



Photo by David W. Marshall, UF-IFAS Leon County Extension: It's time to plant cool season annuals like *Erysimum* 'Citrona Orange'. It proved to be an outstanding cool-season annual last year in the UF-IFAS Leon County Extension demonstration gardens.

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With the arrival of cooler weather, and leaves beginning to fall, consider raking leaves by hand (less pollution, more exercise). You can add the leaves to your compost pile. Or chop them finely with a mower and use them to mulch landscape plants or to mulch bare areas in the landscape where the lawn won't grow.

Now is a good time to buy and plant trees and shrubs. There is less heat stress now, on plants as well as people. So consider taking on those heavier garden chores that were just too much to contemplate during the summer. Don't forget to water new plantings regularly. Fall is often dry.

Annuals to plant this month include pansies, violas, petunias, sweet alyssum, dianthus, snapdragons, lobelia, nemesia, diascia, *erysimum*, and ornamental cabbages. Perennials to plant now for fall color are firespike (*Odontonema strictum*), Mexican bush sage (*Salvia leucantha*), cigar flower (*Cuphea micropetala*), forsythia sage (*Salvia madrensis*) and pineapple sage (*Salvia elegans*). Also, plant camellias now for beautiful flowers from December through February.

Seeds to sow now for spring color are poppies, bachelor buttons, sweetpeas, and larkspur. For spring wildflowers sow seeds of rudbeckia, gallardia, coreopsis and coneflowers. Keep beds moist until the seeds germinate. Spring bulbs to plant now are daffodils, amaryllis, crinums and daylilies. Pot amaryllis bulbs for indoor use six weeks before the holidays. Use a potting mix that contains organic matter, and place them in a sunny room

and water well. Plant all of these annuals, perennials, seeds and bulbs in a sunny area for best blooming.

Plant pyracantha, beautyberry, and hollies now for colorful berries throughout the winter, For colorful fall foliage try red maples, shumard oaks and dogwoods.

Cool weather herbs to plant now include dill, fennel, cilantro, sage and thyme. Cool season vegetables like broccoli, cabbage, kale, lettuce and mustard greens should be planted this month. Plant strawberries now for spring fruit. Plant herbs, vegetables and fruits in full sun for the best results.

November is typically a dry month, so water new plants frequently until they are established. Established trees and shrubs may be watered deeply once per week during dry periods.

Fertilize annuals, herbs and vegetables lightly each month. Do not fertilize grass, shrubs or trees until spring.

Provide trees and flower beds with three to four inches of mulch. Be sure to pull mulch a few inches away from stems and trunks to discourage rot. Mulch will keep plant roots warmer and will discourage weeds.

Dig up tender plants like hibiscus and crotons and overwinter indoors. Divide and replant overgrown perennials and bulbs now, so they will be established before cold weather arrives.

November is a great month for birdwatching, since many species are migrating now. Keep feeders and bird baths clean and provide a variety of foods to attract more variety. Don't remove hummingbird feeders too soon. Some overwinter here.

This is a great time to enjoy the outdoors, so get out there and play in the dirt!

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