



ROOTED IN J'S
FOOD INDEPENDENCE FOR FLORIDA FAMILIES

A Field Guide *for Florida Gardeners*

VEGETABLES • HERBS • FRUIT TREES • FLOWERS
SOIL • WATER • PESTS • COMPANIONS

NORTH FLORIDA

Zones 8b-9a

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Zones 9b-10a

SOUTH FLORIDA

Zones 10b-11a

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How to Use *This Guide*

This is a working reference, not a decorative one. Bring it to the garden. Fold the corners. Write in the margins.

The first section covers the stuff that applies to all of Florida: climate, soil, water, pests, fertilizing. Read that first, then go straight to your region's month-by-month calendar.

Variety names follow each plant name directly. They're not random picks. Every one was chosen for Florida's conditions: heat tolerance, disease resistance, humidity, and how we actually grow here. In Florida, variety choice matters more than technique.

BEGINNER NOTE

If you're new to Florida gardening, read the Climate and Soil sections first, then find your region and today's month. That's your starting point.

EXPERIENCED GROWERS

The month-by-month sections include timing nuance, succession notes and variety comparisons that go well past basic guidance. Flip to your region and look for the deeper notes.

Florida's *Climate*

Before variety selection, before soil prep, before anything else, understand what Florida’s climate actually asks of you. That is the single biggest reason gardening advice written for the rest of the country does not work here.

The Three Regions

REGION	ZONES	CHARACTER
North Florida	8b–9a	Four seasons, frost likely Nov–Mar, chill hours available
Central Florida	9b–10a	Mild winters, light frost possible Dec–Feb, long fall season
South Florida	10b–11a	Tropical, frost rare, year-round growing, distinct rainy and dry seasons

Summer: June–September

The hardest stretch. Temps in the low-to-mid 90s, humidity that makes it feel worse, and afternoon thunderstorms rolling in almost daily. The experienced Florida gardener plans around summer, not through it. Summer is for heat-tolerant crops, mulching, soil building, and patience.

BEGINNER NOTE

If your garden is struggling in summer, that’s completely normal. Knock it back to just okra, sweet potatoes, and southern peas. Mulch everything else four inches deep and look forward to October.

Hurricane Season: June 1 – November 30

Harvest anything ripe as soon as a storm enters the forecast. Don't fertilize in the two weeks before a predicted storm. Stake tall plants before the season. Move containers indoors or lay them on their sides. After the storm, wait two to three weeks before replanting into waterlogged soil.

Winter Freezes: The New Reality

The winters of 2022, 2023 and 2024 brought freezes well outside historical norms. Then came 2025, and that one broke records for us.

I am putting this in the guide because I watched what it did. That winter took beds that had been producing for years and left them empty, and it is the winter that made most people quit. Not quit for the season. Quit.

If that was you, come back. A record winter is not a verdict on whether you can grow. It is weather. The people still gardening this year are not better at it than you, they just started again in the fall.

Keep frost cloth within reach from November through March, whatever your region. That is the whole lesson.

WEATHER NOTE

Cover plants before sunset on freeze nights, not after the temperature drops. Wet the soil around vulnerable plants the evening before – moist soil holds heat significantly better than dry.

Minimum Safe Temperatures

PLANT	MINIMUM SAFE TEMP
Citrus (mature)	26°F briefly
Satsuma / Kumquat	20°F
Avocado (Lula, Brogdon)	28°F
Mango (most varieties)	32°F
Banana (above-ground)	26°F – top dies, roots usually survive
Papaya	32°F – very sensitive
Basil	50°F – damage starts here
Tomatoes	32°F
Collards / Kale	20°F – frost actually improves flavor

Soil

Florida soil is mostly fine sand. It drains fast, warms quickly, and is easy to work. What it lacks is organic matter, nutrient-holding capacity, and structure.

Plants in unamended Florida sand will look perpetually hungry no matter how much fertilizer you add – the nutrients wash straight through.

BEGINNER NOTE

Do one thing before your first season: mix three to four inches of compost into your beds and work it in eight inches deep. That single step addresses most of Florida's soil problems.

Building Soil Over Time

The goal over multiple seasons is to push organic matter from Florida's typical 1% or less up to 4–5%. Tools: compost before each season, wood chip mulch on top of beds, and occasional cover crops between seasons.

Cover crops worth using in Florida: sunn hemp (summer, fixes nitrogen), cowpeas (summer, edible and soil-building), crimson clover (winter, nitrogen-fixing, cold tolerant in North Florida). Cut and drop at flowering – don't let them set seed.

EXPERIENCED GROWERS

Test pH every season. To lower pH in South Florida, apply elemental sulfur in fall ahead of the next planting.

Water

Florida gets 50 to 60 inches of rain per year. Sandy soil drains it within hours, and the dry season, November through April, can go weeks without meaningful rainfall. You cannot assume rain is watering your garden.

How to Water

Water in the morning, always. Evening watering leaves foliage wet overnight, which is an open invitation to fungal disease.

Water deeply and less frequently. The best test: stick a finger an inch or two into the soil before you turn on the hose. Still moist? Skip it.

Four inches of wood chips or pine straw cuts your watering frequency in half, keeps roots from cooking in August, and builds your soil as it breaks down.

EXPERIENCED GROWERS

Drip irrigation with a timer and rain sensor cuts water use by 30–50% compared to overhead sprinklers, eliminates wet foliage, and delivers water right to the root zone.

Pests & *Disease*

Florida's warmth means pests and pathogens never get a hard winter reset. Walk your garden weekly, turn leaves over, look for frass and stippling and slime trails — then use the gentlest effective treatment.

Common Pests

PEST · YEAR-ROUND

Whiteflies

Florida's most universal garden pest. Yellow sticky traps help with monitoring. Neem oil, applied early morning, suppresses them. Reflective silver mulch physically confuses them.

PEST · WARM WEATHER

Aphids

Cluster on tender new growth. Knock off with a hard water spray, then follow with neem oil. Attract or release ladybugs, lacewings, and parasitic wasps — your best long-term allies.

PEST · HARD TO SPRAY

Leaf-Footed Bugs & Stink Bugs

Hand-pick into soapy water in early morning when sluggish. Row covers on young plants prevent infestation.

Common Pests, continued

PEST · CATERPILLAR

Tomato Hornworm

A massive green caterpillar that can strip a plant overnight. Hand-pick; apply Bt at first sign. Don't kill a hornworm covered in white cocoons — those are parasitic wasp eggs doing the work for you.

PEST · SOIL

Root-Knot Nematodes

Nearly universal in Florida sandy soil. Stunted plants, knobby swollen roots. Rotate crops every season. Dense French marigolds as a cover crop measurably suppress nematode populations.

PEST · HOT DRY WEATHER

Spider Mites

Fine webbing and stippled bronze leaves. Increase humidity, apply neem oil. Avoid miticides early — they kill the predatory mites that would control the problem naturally.

Fungal & *Disease Problems*

FUNGAL

Powdery Mildew

White powder on leaves. Improve airflow. Avoid overhead watering. Apply potassium bicarbonate or neem oil at first sign.

FUNGAL · TOMATOES

Early & Late Blight

Brown spots and yellowing, working up from lower leaves. Remove affected leaves immediately. Apply copper fungicide. Choose resistant varieties.

DISEASE · CITRUS

Citrus Greening (HLB)

Mottled yellow leaves and lopsided bitter fruit. Incurable, spreads by Asian citrus psyllid. Control the psyllid aggressively.

FUNGAL · TROPICAL FRUIT

Anthracnose

Black spots on mango and avocado during rainy season. Apply copper fungicide preventatively before the rains arrive in May. By the time you see symptoms, it's too late.

Fertilizing

Florida’s sandy soils drain nutrients fast. Light, frequent applications work better than one heavy feeding. Split your annual fertilizer budget into three or four applications through the growing season.

PLANT TYPE	RECOMMENDATION
Vegetables	Balanced 10-10-10 or 6-6-6 every 4-6 weeks. Side-dress with blood meal mid-season for a nitrogen boost on heavy feeders.
Tomatoes & Peppers	Low-nitrogen, high-phosphorus starter at transplant (5-10-5). Switch to balanced or high-potassium once fruiting. Calcium foliar spray prevents blossom-end rot.
Citrus	Citrus blend with full micronutrients (8-4-8 typical). Apply February, June, October. Never fertilize after September in North Florida.
Mango & Avocado	6-6-6 plus micronutrients. February, June, October. Back off nitrogen once trees mature – too much suppresses flowering.
Blueberries	Acid-specific fertilizer (ammonium sulfate or azalea blend). Light in early spring, skip summer, apply again in early fall. Sensitive to overfeeding.
Native Plants	None after the first season. Over-fertilizing produces lush, pest-prone growth.

Companion *Planting*

Companion planting is not folk magic. There is real mechanism behind it.

Plants that share root space exchange compounds through the soil, flowering plants draw in predatory insects that eat your pests, and dense plantings deny room to weeds. In Florida's climate, where chemical pressure on insects and disease is constant, companions are one of the most practical tools you have.

The key is thinking in systems, not pairs. Do not just plant a basil next to a tomato and call it done. Design each bed so it has something that feeds the soil, something that feeds beneficial insects, and something that confuses or repels pests. Florida's long season gives you time to layer that in.

BEGINNER, START HERE

Three companions to plant right now regardless of what else is in your garden: French marigolds anywhere near vegetables for nematode suppression, basil near tomatoes and peppers for whitefly confusion, and something flowering — zinnias, pentas, or firebush — at the edge of every bed to bring in the predatory wasps that eat caterpillars and aphids.

The Core *Companion Pairs*

Florida specific. Who to put beside what, why it works, and what to keep apart.

PLANT	BEST COMPANIONS	WHY IT WORKS	AVOID
Tomatoes	Basil, marigolds (French), borage, carrots, parsley, asparagus	Basil may repel thrips and aphids; borage deters tomato hornworm and attracts pollinators; marigolds suppress nematodes in the root zone	Fennel, brassicas, corn, potatoes
Peppers	Basil, carrots, okra, tomatoes, marigolds, cilantro	Basil confuses aphids and whiteflies; okra provides light afternoon shade in spring that extends pepper productivity; marigolds deter nematodes	Fennel, brassicas

Core Companion Pairs, continued

PLANT	BEST COMPANIONS	WHY IT WORKS	AVOID
Okra	Peppers, eggplant, southern peas, basil, sweet potatoes	Southern peas fix nitrogen okra needs; sweet potato vines act as living mulch suppressing weeds; eggplant thrives in the microclimate okra creates	Nothing major — okra is generally a good neighbor
Sweet Potatoes	Okra, southern peas, dill, thyme, summer savory	Vines suppress weeds for tall crops; peas fix nitrogen; herbs deter sweet potato weevil	Squash (competing vines), sunflowers
Cucumbers	Sunflowers, nasturtiums, beans, dill (young only), radishes, marigolds	Sunflowers provide trellis and draw aphids away; nasturtiums trap aphids before they reach cucumbers; radishes deter cucumber beetles	Aromatic herbs (sage, rosemary), potatoes, mature dill
Squash & Calabaza	Corn, beans, nasturtiums, borage, marigolds, dill	Classic Three Sisters; nasturtiums trap squash bugs; borage deters both squash bugs and tomato hornworm; dill draws parasitic wasps that attack squash vine borers	Potatoes, fennel

Core Companion Pairs, continued

PLANT	BEST COMPANIONS	WHY IT WORKS	AVOID
Beans & Southern Peas	Corn, squash, cucumbers, carrots, strawberries, rosemary	Fix atmospheric nitrogen that feeds heavy feeders; corn and squash complete the Three Sisters system; carrots loosen soil for bean roots to spread	Onions, garlic, fennel, leeks – alliums stunt bean growth
Corn	Beans, squash, cucumbers, sunflowers, borage, melons	Beans fix nitrogen; squash shades roots and suppresses weeds; the Three Sisters system feeds the soil while producing three separate harvests from one space	Tomatoes (share pests), celery
Brassicas (Broccoli,	Dill, thyme, sage, rosemary, hyssop, chamomile,	Aromatic herbs mask the volatile compounds that	Tomatoes, peppers,
Cabbage, Kale)	celery, nasturtiums, onions	cabbage moths use to locate brassicas; nasturtiums trap aphids; onions and celery deter cabbage loopers	strawberries, beans – all stunt brassica growth

Core Companion Pairs, continued

PLANT	BEST COMPANIONS	WHY IT WORKS	AVOID
Strawberries	Borage, thyme, sage, spinach, lettuce, garlic, beans	Borage is the classic strawberry companion – it deters thrips and draws pollinators; thyme and sage deter slugs; garlic suppresses gray mold (botrytis) in wet weather	Brassicas, fennel, melons
Eggplant	Tarragon, thyme, marigolds, peppers, green beans, spinach	Tarragon is eggplant's strongest companion – repels flea beetles and aphids; marigolds deter nematodes; green beans fix nitrogen	Fennel
Lettuce & Greens	Radishes, carrots, strawberries, chives, cilantro, dill, tall flowers (zinnia, sunflower)	Radishes deter aphids and loosen soil; tall companions provide afternoon shade that extends the lettuce season in Florida's heat; cilantro and dill draw aphid predators	Celery, parsley (in wet conditions – compete for same nutrients)

Core Companion Pairs, continued

PLANT	BEST COMPANIONS	WHY IT WORKS	AVOID
Cassava (Yuca)	Pigeon peas, moringa, sweet potatoes, okra, lemongrass	Pigeon peas fix nitrogen and provide partial shade; moringa's deep roots access different soil layers avoiding competition; this combination is a full food forest understory	Most shallow-rooted annuals (root competition)
Tropical Fruit Trees (Mango, Avocado)	Comfrey, sweet potatoes, pigeon peas, lemongrass, moringa, Barbados cherry	Comfrey mines deep nutrients and chops down as mulch; pigeon peas fix nitrogen and break wind; lemongrass deters pests and retains soil moisture; sweet potatoes cover ground and suppress weeds	Allelopathic plants eucalyptus, black walnut; competing fruit trees with same root depth
Citrus	Comfrey, borage, phacelia, fennel (perimeter only), lemongrass, marigolds	Comfrey draws potassium to the surface; borage and phacelia bring pollinators at bloom time; fennel planted	Other deep-rooted trees too close; brassicas that harbour

Pest-Deterrent *Companions*

What to plant, and where to put it.

DETERS · NEMATODES

French Marigolds

The most important companion you can grow in Florida. Root secretions of French marigold varieties (*Tagetes patula*, NOT African *Tagetes erecta*) actively suppress root-knot nematodes. Plant densely as a cover crop for a full season, then till in before planting vegetables. Or interplant throughout beds all season. Use Disco, Safari, Bonanza, or Petite Gold varieties for strongest effect.

Pest-Deterrent Companions, continued

DETERS · APHIDS, WHITEFLIES

Basil

Plant between tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant. Basil's volatile oils physically confuse insects that navigate by smell. Nufar is the best Florida basil — it resists fusarium wilt that kills most basil here by midsummer. African Blue basil is a perennial in South FL and blooms nonstop, bringing in predatory wasps all season.

DETERS · SQUASH BUGS, HORNWORM

Borage

One of the most effective all-around companions in any warm-climate garden. Deters tomato hornworm and squash bugs, attracts predatory wasps, and draws pollinators in enormous numbers. Self-seeds readily — once you plant it, you'll have it. Blue flowers are edible. Grows fast in Florida conditions.

DETERS · CUCUMBER BEETLES, SQUASH BUGS

Nasturtiums

The trap crop approach: plant nasturtiums at the edge of cucumbers and squash. Aphids and cucumber beetles swarm nasturtiums first. You spot them there, you destroy those plants before the pest population spreads inward. Thrives in Florida's winter and spring; fades in summer heat.

Pest-Deterrent Companions, continued

DETERS · CABBAGE MOTHS, LOOPERS

Thyme, Sage & Rosemary

Aromatic herbs planted near brassicas mask the chemical signals that cabbage moths use to find their host plants. Thyme and rosemary also attract beneficial wasps. Rosemary grows as a perennial shrub in Florida — plant it once at the edge of your cool-season bed and harvest from it for years.

DETERS · FLEA BEETLES, APHIDS

Tarragon & Catnip

Tarragon is eggplant's best companion. It specifically deters flea beetles that riddle eggplant leaves early in the season. Catnip deters aphids, squash bugs, and flea beetles across the garden. Catnip grows as a perennial in most of Florida — cut it back hard after it flowers and it regrows quickly.

DETERS · WHITEFLIES, APHIDS

Reflective Mulch (Companion Strategy)

Silver reflective plastic mulch is technically not a plant, but it functions as a companion strategy. The reflected UV light physically disorients whiteflies and aphids, reducing infestation by 30–50% without any spray. Pair it with basil plantings for maximum effect. Remove before summer heat builds to avoid cooking roots.

Pest-Deterrent Companions, continued

DETERS · SWEET POTATO WEEVIL

Dill, Thyme & Summer Savory

Plant these at the edges of sweet potato beds. The volatile oils deter sweet potato weevil, which is the most damaging sweet potato pest in Florida. Dill does double duty by drawing parasitic wasps that prey on many caterpillar pests nearby. Harvest dill before it goes to seed or it self-seeds aggressively.

Beneficial *Insect Plants*

The most important companion plants are the ones that feed beneficial insects, including predatory wasps, lacewings, hoverflies, and parasitic flies that eat your pests before you ever see a problem.

These predators need pollen and nectar from small-flowered plants. Big showy flowers don't feed them; tiny compound flowers do.

PLANT	SEASON IN FL	INSECTS ATTRACTED	NOTES
Dill	Cool season	Parasitic wasps, lacewings, hoverflies, predatory beetles	Let it flower — that's when it works hardest. Succession sow every 3 weeks fall through spring.
Cilantro (bolted)	Cool season	Parasitic wasps, hoverflies, lacewings	Let a portion bolt and flower. Bolted cilantro is not wasted — it becomes your best beneficial insect habitat of the season.
Fennel	Cool season	Parasitic wasps, swallowtail butterflies (larval host), ladybugs	Plant at perimeter only — it inhibits most vegetables. Host plant for swallowtail caterpillars.
Sweet Alyssum	Cool season	Hoverflies, parasitic wasps, minute pirate bugs	Hoverfly larvae eat aphids voraciously. Plant alyssum near aphid-prone crops. Self-seeds; reappears every cool season once established.

Beneficial Insect Plants, continued

PLANT	SEASON IN FL	INSECTS ATTRACTED	NOTES
Zinnias	Warm season	Parasitic wasps, predatory beetles, soldier bugs, spiders	The #1 summer beneficial insect plant for Florida. Zahara and Profusion varieties survive rain and humidity that kill other zinnias.
Pentas	Year-round	Parasitic wasps, butterflies, hummingbirds (which eat insects)	Blooms continuously through summer heat and into light frost. One of the best all- season beneficials plants in Central and South FL.
Firebush (Hamelia)	Year-round	Parasitic wasps, hummingbirds, predatory beetles	Native. Perennial in Central
Borage	Cool/warm transition	Predatory wasps, bees, lacewings	One of the densest pollinator magnets in the garden when in bloom. Self-seeds reliably.
Moringa	Warm season	Parasitic wasps, bees, beneficial beetles	When moringa flowers, the entire tree hums with activity. Position near the center of the food garden if possible.
Pigeon Peas	Year-round	Parasitic wasps, bees, predatory beetles	Perennial in Zone 9b+. Fixes nitrogen, feeds beneficials, provides windbreak, and produces food. The single best multi-function companion plant for Florida.

Beneficial Insect Plants, continued

PLANT	SEASON IN FL	INSECTS ATTRACTED	NOTES
Roselle (Hibiscus)	Warm season	Bees, predatory wasps, hoverflies	Flowers attract a dense range
Marigolds (French)	Year- round	Hoverflies, parasitic wasps, spiders, predatory beetles	Flowers feed beneficials above ground while roots suppress nematodes below. Disco, Safari, and Bonanza are the most effective varieties. Plant everywhere, always.

What Not to *Plant Together*

Just as useful as knowing what pairs well.

PLANT	KEEP AWAY FROM	REASON
Fennel	Everything except dill and other fennel	Fennel releases allelopathic compounds that stunt almost every vegetable. It belongs at the garden perimeter as a beneficial insect plant, never in the bed.
Beans & Southern Peas	Onions, garlic, leeks, chives, shallots	Alliums inhibit the nitrogen-fixing bacteria that make legumes valuable. Stunts bean yield and undermines the soil benefit entirely.
Tomatoes	Corn, fennel, brassicas, potatoes	Corn and tomatoes share several key pests (earworm, fruitworm). Brassicas and tomatoes compete for the same nutrients in Florida's depleted sand. Potatoes and tomatoes share blight.
Brassicas (Kale, Broccoli, etc.)	Tomatoes, peppers, strawberries, beans, mustard relatives	Heavy feeders that compete aggressively. Strawberry yield drops noticeably near brassicas. Keep them in their own dedicated cool-season bed.

What Not to Plant Together, continued

PLANT	KEEP AWAY FROM	REASON
Onions & Garlic	Beans, peas, asparagus, sage	Allium root secretions suppress legume nodule bacteria. Asparagus and sage also grow poorly
Cucumbers	Aromatic herbs (sage, rosemary), potatoes, mature dill	Strong aromatic oils from sage and rosemary interfere with cucumber development. Young dill helps; mature dill cross-pollinates with cucumbers and affects flavor. Potatoes share pests.
Squash	Potatoes, fennel	Potatoes and squash compete for phosphorus intensely. Fennel stunts squash as it does nearly every vegetable.
Tropical Fruit Trees	Other trees of similar root depth planted too close, allelopathic plants (eucalyptus)	Mango and avocado need their own root territory. Eucalyptus releases toxins into surrounding soil. Black walnut is the most allelopathic tree – nothing grows well within its root zone.

Companion Planting *by Season*

Florida's two main growing seasons each call for different strategies. Plan companions when you plan the bed, not after you have already planted everything.

Winter to Spring · October–May

Plant with your vegetables: French marigolds throughout all beds for nematode suppression even in cool season, cilantro and dill allowed to bolt among brassicas, sweet alyssum along bed edges, thyme and rosemary near the brassica block, borage near strawberries.

Priority pest targets: cabbage loopers, aphids, whiteflies, root-knot nematodes, flea beetles on eggplant.

Summer · June–September

Plant with your vegetables: basil throughout for whitefly and aphid confusion, zinnias at bed edges for beneficial wasps, pentas and firebush as perimeter plants, pigeon peas as windbreak and nitrogen fixer, nasturtiums as trap crops for cucumbers if temperatures stay under 90°F.

Priority pest targets: whiteflies, spider mites, stink bugs, leaf-footed bugs, squash vine borers, sweet potato weevil.

YEAR-ROUND STRATEGY

Keep firebush, pentas, pigeon peas, and at least one flowering perennial herb, rosemary or African Blue basil, in or adjacent to the garden at all times. These serve as permanent insect habitat, a base population of beneficials that is always present, always suppressing pest populations before they surge.

MONTH BY MONTH

January *Deep*

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A			CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A			SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A		
VEGETABLES			VEGETABLES			VEGETABLES		
Kale SOW <i>Lacinato, Red Russian, Winterbor</i> Frost sweetens the flavor			Tomatoes TRANSPLANT <i>Heatmaster, BHN 602, Solar Fire, Celebrity</i> Start indoors mid-Jan for Feb transplant INDOORS Peppers START Cubanelle, Aji Dulce, King Arthur, Datil 8 weeks to transplant size			Tomatoes TRANSPLANT <i>BHN 602, Heatmaster, Tycoon, Juliet, Sungold, Mortgage Lifter</i> Harvest window Dec-March		
Collards SOW <i>Georgia Southern, Vates, Flash Hybrid</i> Most reliable N. FL winter green			Lettuce SOW <i>Jericho, Buttercrunch, Nevada, Muir, Oakleaf</i> Jericho most heat tolerant			Peppers TRANSPLANT <i>Aji Dulce, Cubanelle, Scotch Bonnet, Rocoto, Fish Pepper</i> Aji Dulce essential for Caribbean cooking		
Mustard Greens SOW <i>Florida Broadleaf, Southern Giant Curled, Tendergreen</i> Fast, frost tolerant			Kale & Collards SOW <i>Lacinato, Vates, Red Russian, Redbor</i>			Eggplant TRANSPLANT <i>Ping Tung Long, Thai Long Green, Rosa Bianca</i>		
Spinach SOW <i>Melody, Tyee, Bloomsdale Long Standing</i> Needs cool soil, direct sow			Spinach SOW <i>Melody, Tyee, Bloomsdale</i>			Beans SOW <i>Yard-long: Red Noodle, Green Noodle; Bush: Provider, Dragon Tongue</i>		
Swiss Chard SOW <i>Rainbow, Bright Lights, Fordhook Giant</i>								

January, continued

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A	CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A	SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A
Beets SOW Detroit Dark Red, Chioggia, Bull's Blood, Golden Thin to 3 inches apart	Beets SOW Detroit Dark Red, Chioggia, Bull's Blood	Cucumbers SOW Marketmore 76, Dasher II, Armenian, Yard Long
Carrots SOW Nantes, Chantenay, Scarlet Nantes, Cosmic Purple Loose soil essential	Carrots SOW Nantes, Chantenay, Cosmic Purple, Solar Yellow	Lettuce SOW Jericho, Summer Crisp, Buttercrunch, Lollo Rossa
Radishes SOW Cherry Belle, French Breakfast, Daikon Ready in 25 days	Broccoli TRANSPLANT Belstar, Waltham 29, Arcadia Arcadia good for warmer climates	Beets & Carrots SOW Detroit Dark Red, Chantenay, Chioggia Short-rooted types for raised beds
Turnips SOW Purple Top White Globe, Hakurei, Tokyo Market Hakurei eaten raw	Cauliflower TRANSPLANT Snow Crown, Attribute, Cheddar Attribute resists downy mildew	HARVEST
Arugula SOW Astro, Rocket, Sylvestra	Peas SOW Sugar Snap, Wando, Oregon Sugar Pod II	Strawberries HARVEST Chandler, Festival, Camarosa Peak harvest Jan-Feb
Broccoli TRANSPLANT Waltham 29, Green Comet, Belstar, Di Cicco Di Cicco side-shoots for weeks	Strawberries TRANSPLANT Chandler, Festival, Sweet Charlie, Florida Radiance Harvest Feb through April	Moringa ONGOING M. oleifera Harvest young leaves continuously 🌿 WEATHER WATCH
	HERBS	Freeze Risk WATCH Jan freeze nights possible. Frost cloth ready for mango, papaya, basil.
	Cilantro SOW Slow Bolt, Calypso	

January, continued

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A	CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A	SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A
Cauliflower TRANSPLANT Snow Crown, Cheddar, Graffiti, Amazing Tie leaves to blanch white types	FRUIT TREES Citrus PLANT Meyer Lemon, Orlando Tangelo, Hamlin Orange, Blood Orange (Moro) Oct-Feb is ideal planting window	
Cabbage TRANSPLANT Copenhagen Market, Stonehead, Savoy Ace	Blueberries (S. Highbush) PLANT Emerald, Jewel, Star, Springhigh Plant 2 varieties together 🌦️ WEATHER WATCH	
Peas SOW Sugar Snap, Wando, Green Arrow, Little Marvel Provide trellis	Freeze Risk WATCH Keep frost cloth ready for mango, papaya, basil.	
Onion TRANSPLANT Granex, Yellow Granex, Red Burgundy Short-day types only in FL		
Garlic SOW Creole Red, Ajo Rojo, Inchelium Red Plant 2 in. deep, 6 in. apart		
HERBS Cilantro SOW Slow Bolt, Santo, Calypso Succession sow every 3 weeks		

January, continued

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A		
Parsley SOW Giant of Italy, Moss Curled Slow germinator, worth the wait		
Dill SOW Fernleaf, Bouquet, Dukat		
FRUIT TREES		
Peaches PLANT TropicBeauty, UFSun, Flordaprince, Tropic Snow Best planting month of the year		
Blueberries (Rabbiteye) PLANT Climax, Premier, Tifblue, Brightwell 2 varieties for cross-pollination		
Fig PLANT Brown Turkey, Celeste, LSU Purple, Alma		
Citrus PLANT Satsuma (Owari), Meyer Lemon, Kumquat Plant against south-facing wall		

February Cool

NORTH FLORIDA

ZONES 8B-9A

VEGETABLES

All January cool-season
crops **SOW**

*Window closing for slow crops like
cauliflower*

Lettuce **SOW**

*Buttercrunch, Black-Seeded Simpson,
Oakleaf, Jericho, Muir*

Jericho most bolt-resistant as spring
nears

Kohlrabi **SOW**

Early White Vienna, Purple Vienna, Kossak

Bok Choy **SOW**

Joi Choi, Pak Choi, Toy Choi

Fast maturing, tolerates light frost

Fava Beans **SOW**

Aquadulce, Sweet Lorane, Windsor

Cool weather only — harvest April

CENTRAL FLORIDA

ZONES 9B-10A

VEGETABLES

Tomatoes
(indoors) **START INDOORS**

*Heatmaster, Solar Fire, BHN 602, Tycoon,
Brandywine, Sweet 100, Sungold*

6 weeks before late-March transplant
INDOORSPeppers (indoors) **START**
Jimmy Nardello, Pimento, Cubanelle,
Paprika, Aji Dulce, Datil Jimmy Nardello
has extraordinary flavor
INDOORSEggplant (indoors) **START**
Fairy Tale, Hansel, Ichiban, Rosa Bianca

Cucumbers **SOW**

*Straight Eight, Dasher II, Marketmore 76,
Lemon Cucumber*

SOUTH FLORIDA

ZONES 10B-11A

VEGETABLES

Beans **SOW**

*Provider, Contender, Yard-long Red Noodle,
Wing Bean, Hyacinth Bean*

Wing Bean is a perennial tropical
legume

Calabaza Squash **SOW**

*Seminole Pumpkin, Bonita Hybrid, Cuban
Calabaza*

Year-round in South FL

Bitter Melon **SOW**

*Chinese White (milder), Indian (deeply
ridged)*

Harvest young for mildest flavor

Chayote **SOW**

White-skinned or green-skinned

Plant the whole fruit. All parts edible.

February, continued

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B–9A	CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B–10A	SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B–11A
Strawberries PLANT <i>Chandler, Festival, Camarosa</i> Harvest May–June Irish Potatoes PLANT <i>Red LaSoda, LaChipper, Yukon Gold</i> 4 in. deep; harvest late May INDOORSTomatoes (for March transplant) START Celebrity, Solar Fire, Heatmaster, Sungold, Cherokee Purple, Brandywine, Better Boy, Juliet 6–8 weeks before transplant date Peppers, sweet START INDOORS <i>King Arthur, Cubanelle, Jimmy Nardello, Shishito, Lunch Box</i> 8–10 weeks to transplant size INDOORSPeppers, hot START Cayenne, Jalapeño, Serrano, Datil, Habanero, Tabasco Datil is St. Augustine's native pepper INDOORSEggplant START Black Beauty, Ichiban, Fairy Tale, Listada de Gandia	Beans (bush & pole) SOW <i>Provider, Blue Lake 274, Dragon Tongue, Henderson's Lima</i> Provider best disease resistance for FL Summer Squash SOW <i>Black Beauty, Costata Romanesco, Saffron, Sunburst patty pan</i> Kohlrabi SOW <i>Kossak, Purple Vienna</i> HARVEST Broccoli, Cauliflower, Cabbage HARVEST <i>Side-shoot broccoli after main head</i> Strawberries HARVEST <i>Chandler, Festival</i>	Leafy Greens SOW <i>Taiwanese A-choy, Okinawan spinach, Malabar spinach</i> Heat-tolerant alternatives to lettuce HERBS Culantro SOW <i>Eryngium foetidum</i> Perennial cilantro substitute, grows in shade HARVEST Avocados HARVEST <i>Monroe, Booth 7 (depending on variety timing)</i> Carambola HARVEST <i>Arkin, Kary, Sri Kembangan</i> Peak season through February

March *Spring planting season opens* — *warm season begins*

NORTH FLORIDA

ZONES 8B–9A

VEGETABLES

Tomatoes **TRANSPLANT**

Celebrity, Heatmaster, Better Boy, Mortgage Lifter, Sungold, Sweet 100, Juliet, Black Cherry, Cherokee Purple, Brandywine

Bury 2/3 of stem; cage or stake at planting

Peppers, sweet **TRANSPLANT**

King Arthur, Jimmy Nardello, Shishito, California Wonder, Cubanelle, Lunch Box
Shishito extremely productive in FL

Peppers, hot **TRANSPLANT**

Jalapeño (Early, Mucho Nacho), Cayenne, Datil, Habanero, Serrano, Tabasco

CENTRAL FLORIDA

ZONES 9B–10A

VEGETABLES

Tomatoes **TRANSPLANT**

Heatmaster, Solar Fire, BHN 602, Tycoon, Sungold, Sweet 100, Brandywine, Cherokee Purple

Fall tomatoes often outperform spring

Peppers **TRANSPLANT**

All varieties — sweet and hot
Central FL spring excellent for peppers

Eggplant **TRANSPLANT**

Ping Tung Long, Fairy Tale, Hansel, Rosa Bianca

Cucumbers **SOW**

Marketmore 76, Tasty Jade, Straight Eight, National Pickling

SOUTH FLORIDA

ZONES 10B–11A

VEGETABLES

Tomatoes (last window) **TRANSPLANT**

Heatmaster, Solar Fire, BHN 602 — heat-set only

Okra **SOW**

Clemson Spineless, Cajun Delight, Jing Orange, Burgundy Red
Begin now, harvest through November

Sweet Potatoes **PLANT**

Beauregard, Boniato, Purple Okinawan, Murasaki, Japanese
Year-round crop; plant slips or cuttings

Roselle (FL Cranberry) **PLANT**

Victor, Thai variety
Calyxes ripen Oct–Nov for hibiscus tea

March, continued

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B–9A	CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B–10A	SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B–11A
Eggplant TRANSPLANT <i>Fairy Tale, Ichiban, Listada de Gandia, Black Beauty</i> 18–24 in. apart; mulch heavily	Watermelon SOW <i>Crimson Sweet, Sugar Baby, Mickeylee, Black Diamond</i> Mickeylee is a Central FL favorite	Calabaza, Yard-long
Cucumbers SOW <i>Straight Eight, Marketmore 76, Dasher II, Lemon Cucumber, Armenian</i> Trellis for air circulation	Beans SOW <i>Provider, Blue Lake, Dragon Tongue, Henderson's Lima</i>	Beans SOW <i>Seminole Pumpkin; Red Noodle, Green Noodle</i>
Summer Squash SOW <i>Black Beauty zucchini, Costata Romanesco, Saffron, Sunburst</i> 50 days seed to harvest	HERBS	HERBS
Beans, bush SOW <i>Blue Lake 274, Provider, Contender, Dragon Tongue</i>	Basil SOW <i>Nufar, Genovese, Italian Large Leaf, Red Rubin, Thai, Holy Basil</i>	Turmeric PLANT <i>Common turmeric (Curcuma longa), White turmeric</i> Plant rhizomes; harvest fall
Beans, pole SOW <i>Kentucky Wonder, Rattlesnake Pole, Yard Long (Red Noodle)</i> Pole types produce far longer	Lemongrass PLANT <i>East Indian, West Indian</i> Perennial in Central FL once established	Ginger PLANT <i>Culinary ginger, Blue Hawaiian, Galangal</i> Galangal perennial in South FL
	Cuban Oregano PLANT <i>Plectranthus amboinicus</i> Stronger than Mediterranean oregano, loves heat	Holy Basil PLANT <i>Kaprao (Thai holy basil)</i> Year-round in South FL; essential for Thai cooking
		HARVEST
		Lychee (late varieties) HARVEST <i>Brewster, Mauritius</i> Depending on variety and year

March, continued

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A		
Winter Squash sow Butternut, Seminole Pumpkin, Delicata, Spaghetti Seminole Pumpkin is a FL native variety		
Watermelon sow Crimson Sweet, Sugar Baby, Jubilee, Orangeglo, Yellow Doll		
Cantaloupe sow Athena, Hales Best Jumbo, Edisto 47 Edisto 47 bred for southeastern humidity		
HERBS		
Basil sow Genovese, Nufar, Thai (Siam Queen), African Blue, Holy Basil Nufar resists fusarium wilt common in FL soil		

April *Full*

NORTH FLORIDA

ZONES 8B-9A

VEGETABLES

Sweet Corn **SOW**

Silver Queen, Peaches and Cream, Honey Select, Florida Staysweet

Plant in blocks of 4+ rows for pollination

Okra **SOW**

Clemson Spineless, Emerald, Star of David, Jing Orange, Bowling Red

Direct sow only — roots resent transplanting

Sweet Potatoes **PLANT**

Beauregard, Covington, Garnet, O'Henry, Stokes Purple, Murasaki

Plant slips 12 in. apart

CENTRAL FLORIDA

ZONES 9B-10A

VEGETABLES

Okra **SOW**

Cajun Delight, Clemson Spineless, Emerald, Star of David

Cajun Delight matures 5 days faster

Sweet Corn **SOW**

Silver Queen, Peaches and Cream, Honey Select

Two plantings 2 weeks apart

Sweet Potatoes **PLANT**

Beauregard, Covington, Porto Rico, Stokes Purple

Porto Rico is compact vine for small spaces

Southern Peas **SOW**

Pinkeye Purple Hull, White Acre, Zipper Cream

White Acre sweetest for fresh eating

SOUTH FLORIDA

ZONES 10B-11A

VEGETABLES

Okra **ONGOING**

All varieties

Harvest every 2 days or pods toughen

Edamame **SOW**

Envy, BeSweet 292

Yard-long Beans **ONGOING**

Red Noodle, Green Noodle, Purple Podded

One of the most productive summer crops

HARVEST

Mango (early

varieties) **HARVEST**

Haden (early), Gary, Dot

Haden typically first to ripen in S. FL

Avocado **HARVEST**

Simmonds, Pollock (summer types)

Summer West Indian varieties ripen now

April, continued

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A	CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A	SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A
Luffa SOW Smooth luffa, Angled luffa (better eating) Strong trellis needed; harvest young for food	Luffa SOW Smooth and angled types	Lychee HARVEST Brewster, Mauritius, Kaimana Short window — harvest promptly
Southern Peas SOW Pinkeye Purple Hull, Black-Eyed Pea, Zipper Cream, Cream Pea, Whippoorwill FL's most underrated summer crop	Calabaza Squash SOW Seminole Pumpkin, Bonita	
Malabar Spinach SOW Green stem, Red stem Best summer spinach substitute	Edamame SOW Envy, Midori Giant, BeSweet 292 90-day crop; harvest July	
HERBS	FLOWERS	
Moringa SOW Moringa oleifera Grows 10-15 ft in one FL season	Pentas, Firebush, Zinnias PLANT Peak planting window for summer color	
Zinnias PLANT Zahara, Benary's Giant, Profusion, Magellan Zahara and Profusion best disease resistance		

April, continued

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A		
Marigolds PLANT <i>French: Disco, Safari; African: Crackerjack, Perfection</i> French types suppress nematodes		
Pentas PLANT <i>Graffiti, New Look, Starcluster, Butterfly series</i> Will bloom through frost		
Firebush PLANT <i>Hamelia patens (native species only)</i> Hummingbirds arrive immediately		

May Summer transition — cool season ends

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B–9A	CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B–10A	SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B–11A
VEGETABLES Okra (last planting) SOW <i>Clemson Spineless, Emerald</i> Last good window for productive planting Southern Peas SOW <i>Any variety</i> Plant every 3 weeks through August — most reliable summer crop Calabaza SOW <i>Seminole Pumpkin, Bonita</i> Edamame SOW <i>Envy, Midori Giant</i> Harvest late July	VEGETABLES Okra SOW <i>Cajun Delight, Emerald, Jing Orange</i> Sweet Potatoes PLANT <i>Beauregard, Porto Rico, Murasaki</i> Southern Peas (succession) SOW <i>Pinkeye Purple Hull, White Acre</i> Succession plant every 3 weeks Roselle PLANT <i>Victor, Thai variety</i> Harvest calyxes Oct–Nov	WEATHER WATCH Hurricane Season Opens June 1 WATCH Review storm prep now. Stake tall plants. HARVEST Mango Harvest Peak ONGOING <i>Carrie, Cogshall, Lemon Zest, Pickering, Angie</i> Main harvest season May–Aug by variety Longan Longan HARVEST <i>Kohala, Biew Kiew</i> Harvest May–August
FLOWERS Beautyberry PLANT <i>Callicarpa americana (native)</i> Purple berries by fall	HERBS Lemongrass, Cuban Oregano PLANT Summer herbs that thrive now HARVEST	VEGETABLES Heat Crops SOW <i>Okra, calabaza, yard-long beans, bitter melon</i> Ongoing through rainy season

May, continued

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A		CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A	SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A
Portulaca PLANT Happy Hour Mix, Sundial, Mojave Thrives in FL's sandy hot spots HARVEST Strawberries (end of season) HARVEST Remove plants in summer; replant fall Spring Tomatoes & Peppers HARVEST Pick everything before heat collapses plants		Spring Tomatoes (last) HARVEST Pick all fruit before heat ends production Peaches (if planted) HARVEST TropicBeauty, UFSun Short window — harvest daily when ripe	

June *Hurricane*

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A	CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A	SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A
VEGETABLES Southern Peas (succession) SOW <i>Pinkeye Purple Hull, Iron & Clay, Cream Pea</i> Succession sow every 3 weeks through August Sweet Potatoes (late) PLANT <i>Beauregard, Covington</i> Late June slips still produce by October Superhot Peppers PLANT <i>Ghost Pepper, Scorpion, Carolina Reaper</i> Long hot summer is exactly what they want HARVEST Okra HARVEST Harvest every 2 days — pods toughen fast  WEATHER WATCH	HARVEST Okra, Sweet Potatoes, Southern Peas HARVEST <i>These carry you through summer</i> VEGETABLES Southern Peas (succession) SOW <i>White Acre, Zipper Cream, Pinkeye Purple Hull</i> Every 3 weeks  WEATHER WATCH Fungal Disease Pressure Peaks WATCH <i>Alternate copper and neem oil every 10 days on susceptible plants</i> Hurricane Season Opens WATCH <i>Tampa Bay area: review storm prep</i>	HARVEST Mango (main season) HARVEST <i>Cogshall, Lemon Zest, Pickering, Angie, NDM</i> Stagger harvests by variety; freeze excess Avocado HARVEST <i>Choquette, Booth 7</i> Okra, Calabaza, Yard-long Beans ONGOING <i>Primary food garden crops now</i> HERBS Tropical Herbs ONGOING <i>Lemongrass, turmeric, ginger, holy basil, culantro</i> All growing strongly now  WEATHER WATCH

June, continued

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A	CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A	SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A
Hurricane SeasonWATCH Open June 1. Stake plants, keep containers movable.		Anthracnose on MangoWATCH Copper fungicide preventatively. Too late to apply reactively.

July *Hottest*

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A	CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A	SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A
VEGETABLES Southern Peas (succession) SOW <i>Any variety</i> Only vegetable that actually thrives with no complaint in July Sweet Potatoes (last window) PLANT <i>Beauregard, Covington</i> Early July only; smaller yield from short window Sunflowers SOW <i>Soraya, Valentine, Pro-Cut Bicolor</i> 50-day types bloom in late August FLOWERS Gomphrena PLANT <i>QJS Mix, Fireworks, Buddy series</i> Blooms nonstop July through frost HARVEST	VEGETABLES Southern Peas (succession) SOW <i>Any variety</i> HARVEST Okra, Sweet Potatoes, Calabaza HARVEST Mulch, Water, Watch for Pests MAINTAIN <i>Spider mites surge in heat and drought</i> FLOWERS Gomphrena, Portulaca PLANT <i>Heat-tolerant ornamentals only</i>	HARVEST Mango (mid-season) HARVEST <i>Haden, Tommy Atkins, Keitt (August)</i> Keitt is one of the last FL mangoes to ripen Carambola, Jackfruit (begins) HARVEST <i>Arkin; Black Gold, Cheena</i> Moringa, Yard-long Beans, Okra ONGOING <i>Most productive now</i>  WEATHER WATCH Fungal Disease WATCH <i>Wet season peak. Remove diseased foliage. Improve airflow.</i>

July, continued

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A		
Okra, Southern Peas HARVEST Daily harvest keeps production going Mulch All Beds MAINTAIN 4 inches; reapply if thin. Keeps roots from cooking.		

August *End*

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A	CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A	SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A
VEGETABLES Tomatoes START INDOORS <i>Celebrity, Heatmaster, Solar Fire, Sweet 100, Juliet, Cherokee Purple, Brandywine, Sungold</i> Fall tomatoes often most productive of the year INDOORSPeppers START All sweet and hot varieties Established spring plants can be cut hard and will regrow INDOORSEggplant START Fairy Tale, Ichiban, Listada de Gandia Bush Beans (late Aug) SOW <i>Provider, Blue Lake 274, Contender</i> Late Aug sow produces in October as temps drop	VEGETABLES Tomatoes (indoors) START INDOORS <i>Heatmaster, BHN 602, Tycoon, Sungold, Brandywine, Juliet</i> Transplant September INDOORSPeppers, Eggplant (indoors) START All varieties Beans, Cucumbers SOW <i>Provider; Marketmore 76</i> Late August for October harvest HARVEST Summer Crops MAINTAIN <i>Okra, sweet potatoes ongoing</i>	HARVEST Keitt Mango (last of season) HARVEST <i>Keitt, Nam Doc Mai</i> Some years Keitt bears into September Carambola HARVEST <i>Arkin, Kary</i> Production increases Aug-Feb Jackfruit HARVEST <i>Black Gold, Cheena, J33</i> Harvest when spines soften and it gives slightly VEGETABLES Plan Dry Season Beds PLAN <i>Amend raised beds with compost now; plant in October</i> WEATHER WATCH

August, continued

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A		
Cucumbers sow Marketmore 76, Dasher II, Spacemaster		Hurricane Peak Season WATCH August-October is peak. Keep nothing unprotected.
Summer Squash sow Black Beauty, Costata Romanesco Quick crop before fall proper		
Southern Peas (last) sow Pinkeye Purple Hull Last succession planting		

September *Fall*

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A	CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A	SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A
VEGETABLES Tomatoes TRANSPLANT <i>Celebrity, Heatmaster, Better Boy, Juliet, Sungold, Sweet 100, Cherokee Purple, Brandywine, Mortgage Lifter</i> Mulch heavily; plant deep Peppers TRANSPLANT Peppers TRANSPLANT <i>Banana (Sweet Banana, Hungarian Wax), Paprika (Alma), Shishito, all hot types</i> Peppers outlast tomatoes into December Eggplant TRANSPLANT <i>Fairy Tale, Ichiban, Listada de Gandia</i>	VEGETABLES Tomatoes TRANSPLANT <i>Heatmaster, BHN 602, Tycoon, Celebrity, Sungold, Sweet 100, Brandywine, Cherokee Purple</i> Peppers & Eggplant TRANSPLANT <i>All varieties</i> Long production window ahead Cucumbers, Beans, Squash SOW <i>Marketmore 76; Provider; Black Beauty</i> Watermelon (bush types) SOW <i>Sugar Baby, Icebox types</i> Short-season varieties only for Sept start Strawberries (begin) PLANT <i>Chandler, Festival, Florida Radiance</i> Early September for longest harvest window	VEGETABLES Tomatoes TRANSPLANT <i>BHN 602, Heatmaster, Tycoon, Juliet, Sungold, Champagne Bubbles</i>

September, continued

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A		
Beans (bush & pole) sow Provider, Blue Lake, Contender, Henderson's Lima, Fordhook 242 Lima		
Cucumbers sow Marketmore 76, Poinsett 76, Lemon Cucumber Poinsett 76 bred for southeastern conditions		
Summer Squash sow All types Best fall squash window		
Okra (final) sow Clemson Spineless Short fall window; October harvest		

October is better, but Sept works for heat-set types

NORTH FLORIDA

ZONES 8B-9A

VEGETABLES

Broccoli, Cauliflower,

Cabbage **SOW**

Waltham 29, Di Cicco, Belstar; Snow Crown, Cheddar, Graffiti; Stonehead, Savoy Ace, January King

Di Cicco broccoli side-shoots for weeks

Kale **SOW**

Lacinato, Winterbor, Red Russian, Redbor, Prizm

Collards **SOW**

Georgia Southern, Vates, Flash Hybrid, Morris Heading

Spinach **SOW**

Melody, Tyee, Bloomsdale Long Standing, Spargo

CENTRAL FLORIDA

ZONES 9B-10A

VEGETABLES

All Brassicas **SOW**

Broccoli: Belstar, Arcadia; Cauliflower: Attribute, Snow Crown; Cabbage: Stonehead, Rio Verde

Warm-tolerant varieties matter more here than N. FL

All Greens **SOW**

Kale (Lacinato), Spinach (Tyee), Lettuce (Jericho, Buttercrunch), Chard (Rainbow), Arugula

Root Crops **SOW**

Beets (Chioggia, Bull's Blood), Carrots (Nantes, Cosmic Purple), Radishes, Turnips (Hakurei)

SOUTH FLORIDA

ZONES 10B-11A

Okra, Calabaza, Yard-long

Beans **SOW**

Continue summer crops into fall

FRUIT TREES

Fruit Trees **PLANT**

Avocado, carambola, sapodilla, jackfruit
Rainy season helps establishment

Fruit Trees **PLANT**

Mango, avocado, lychee, longan, jackfruit
Oct-Feb is best planting window statewide

HARVEST

Roselle Calyxes Begin **HARVEST**

Victor, Thai variety

Harvest when calyxes are bright red and plump

Roselle Calyxes **HARVEST**

October, continued

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B–9A	CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B–10A	SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B–11A
Lettuce (head) SOW <i>Buttercrunch, Ermosa, Jericho, Nevada, Tom Thumb</i> Tom Thumb perfect for containers Lettuce (loose leaf) SOW <i>Black-Seeded Simpson, Oakleaf, Red Sails, Salad Bowl, Bronze Mignonette</i> Swiss Chard SOW <i>Rainbow, Bright Lights, Peppermint</i> Beets SOW <i>Detroit Dark Red, Chioggia, Golden, Bull's Blood</i> Carrots SOW <i>Nantes, Chantenay Red Core, Cosmic Purple, Solar Yellow, Dragon</i> Turnips SOW <i>Hakurei, Tokyo Market, Purple Top, Just Right</i> Hakurei & Tokyo eaten raw Radishes SOW <i>Cherry Belle, French Breakfast, Watermelon, Daikon</i>	Onions, Garlic PLANT <i>Granex, Texas Grano 1015; Creole Red, Ajo Rojo</i> Texas Grano 1015 mild enough to eat raw Strawberries PLANT <i>Chandler, Festival, Sweet Charlie, Florida Radiance</i> Harvest Dec–March Peas SOW <i>Sugar Snap, Wando, Oregon Sugar Pod II</i> FLOWERS Snapdragons, Pansies, Petunias PLANT <i>Rocket; Penny violas; Wave, Supertunia</i> Peak cool-season flower planting window	Roselle Calyxes HARVEST <i>Victor, Thai variety</i> Harvest when plump and bright red VEGETABLES Tomatoes TRANSPLANT <i>BHN 602, Tycoon, Heatmaster, Juliet, Sweet 100, Sungold, Mortgage Lifter, Yellow Pear</i> Peppers TRANSPLANT <i>Aji Dulce, Cubanelle, Scotch Bonnet, Datil, Habanero, Rocoto</i> Beans SOW <i>Provider, Dragon Tongue, Yard-long, Wing Bean, Hyacinth Bean</i> Cucumbers, Calabaza SOW <i>Marketmore 76, Armenian; Seminole Pumpkin</i> Greens SOW <i>Jericho lettuce, A-choy, Okinawan spinach, arugula, Swiss chard</i>

October, continued

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A	CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A	SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A
Onion Transplants PLANT Granex, Yellow Granex, Red Burgundy, White Granex Garlic PLANT Creole Red, Ajo Rojo, Inchelium Red, Artichoke types Plant cloves 2 in. deep, 6 in. apart Strawberries PLANT Chandler, Festival, Camarosa, Treasure HERBS Cilantro, Parsley, Dill SOW Slow Bolt; Giant of Italy; Fernleaf Main cool-season herb window FLOWERS Snapdragons PLANT Rocket Mix, Madame Butterfly, Potomac, Twinny Madame Butterfly open-faced, unique look		Root Crops (raised beds) SOW Chantenay carrots, Chioggia beets, Daikon Raised beds essential over marl/rock

October, continued

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A		
Pansies & Violas PLANT Delta Mix, Matrix, Sorbet, Penny (viola – most heat tolerant)		
Larkspur PLANT Giant Imperial Mix, Fancy Mix, Frosted Skies Direct sow only; blooms spring		
Dianthus, Alyssum PLANT Telstar; Easter Bonnet		

November *First*

NORTH FLORIDA

ZONES 8B-9A

VEGETABLES

All cool-season crops **SOW**

Window still open for fast crops like greens

Earlier is better for cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage

Garlic, Shallots **PLANT**

Creole Red, Ajo Rojo; French Red, Ambition Hybrid

Fava Beans **SOW**

Aquadulce, Sweet Lorane, Windsor
Harvest March

Strawberries **PLANT**

Chandler, Camarosa, Festival

Nov planting for Dec-April production

 WEATHER WATCH

CENTRAL FLORIDA

ZONES 9B-10A

VEGETABLES

All October crops **ONGOING**

Still planting; broccoli and cauliflower most time-sensitive

Garlic **PLANT**

Creole Red, Ajo Rojo

HARVEST

Fall Tomatoes &

Peppers **HARVEST**

First harvest of fall crops

FLOWERS

Petunias, Snapdragons,

Pansies **PLANT**

Wave; Rocket, Madame Butterfly; Penny violas



WEATHER WATCH

SOUTH FLORIDA

ZONES 10B-11A

VEGETABLES

All October crops **ONGOING**

Continue planting vegetables from October list

Strawberries **PLANT**

Chandler, Festival, Camarosa

FLOWERS

Snapdragons, Pansies,

Zinnias **PLANT**

Rocket; Penny violas; Zahara

HARVEST

Mamey Sapote

Begins **HARVEST**

Magaña, Pantin

 WEATHER WATCH

Unexpected Cold

Possible **WATCH**

Keep frost cloth ready. 2022 showed South FL is not freeze-proof.

November, continued

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A	CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A	SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A
Freeze Prep WATCH Bananas: mulch base, wrap stems. Citrus: cover young trees if <28°F. Basil: harvest and make pesto before first frost.	Light Frost Possible Inland WATCH Lakeland and north: cover papaya, basil, tropical herbs on freeze nights	

December *Winter*

NORTH FLORIDA

ZONES 8B-9A

VEGETABLES

Onion Transplants **PLANT**

Granex, Yellow Granex, White Lisbon (green onions)

Through December for spring harvest

Garlic **PLANT**

All varieties

Cool-Season Greens **SOW**

Kale, collards, mustard, turnip greens

Direct sow viable early December

Peas **SOW**

Wando, Sugar Snap, Oregon Sugar Pod II

Last planting window before hard winter

HARVEST

CENTRAL FLORIDA

ZONES 9B-10A

VEGETABLES

Onion, Garlic **PLANT**

Short-day onions; Creole Red garlic

Through December

Fava Beans **SOW**

Aquadulce, Sweet Lorane

Excellent winter crop

HARVEST

Strawberries Begin **HARVEST**

Chandler, Festival

First berries from October/November planting

Tomatoes, Peppers **HARVEST**

Fall planting peak production window

All Brassicas, Greens, Root

Crops **HARVEST**

 WEATHER WATCH

SOUTH FLORIDA

ZONES 10B-11A

VEGETABLES

Continue All Oct/Nov

Plantings **SOW**

Root crops, greens, beans, cucumbers still productive

HARVEST

Tomatoes (fall peak) **HARVEST**

BHN 602, Tycoon, Juliet, Sungold

Carambola Peak **HARVEST**

Arkin, Kary

Dec-Feb is best carambola season

Mamey Sapote,

Sapodilla **HARVEST**

Magaña; Brown Sugar, Tikal

FRUIT TREES

December, continued

NORTH FLORIDA ZONES 8B-9A	CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONES 9B-10A	SOUTH FLORIDA ZONES 10B-11A
Loquat Begins HARVEST Big Jim, Champagne, Gold Nugget One of the few fruits ripening in December	Freeze Nights Possible Dec-Feb WATCH Lakeland to Ocala: cover papaya, basil. Young citrus protect at 28°F.	Fruit Trees (ideal window) PLANT Avocado, lychee, longan, carambola, sapodilla, jackfruit Dry season establishment is best  WEATHER WATCH
Satsuma Mandarin HARVEST Owari, Brown Select Peak harvest month		Cold Nights Possible WATCH Frost cloth for mango, papaya, basil on any night forecast below 45°F.
All Winter Vegetables HARVEST Kale, collards, broccoli, carrots, beets, lettuce At peak flavor in cool weather  WEATHER WATCH		
Hard Freeze Risk WATCH Frost cloth ready at all times. Protect citrus, bananas, any tropical plants left outdoors.		

Resources

The University of Florida's UF/IFAS Extension is the single most valuable resource for Florida gardeners. Every county has a free extension office with Master Gardener volunteers who know your exact soil type, pest pressure, and growing conditions.

Extension & Research

UF/IFAS Publication Library — edis.ifas.ufl.edu

County Extension Offices — sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu

Florida Native Plant Society — fnps.org

Seed Sources

Johnny's Selected Seeds

Southern Exposure Seed Exchange

Sow True Seed

Florida Seed and Garden

Tropical Fruit

Truly Tropical — South Florida fruit trees

Going Bananas Nursery — rare tropical fruit

Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida

Specialty Plants

Lara Farms — blueberry and strawberry plugs

Florida Blueberry Growers Association

A *Final Word*

Lean on your local extension office. Talk to your neighbors about what's working. Grow something new every season. And when the freeze or the hurricane comes, rebuild.

That's Florida gardening.

STAY IN THE GARDEN

Seasonal planting reminders, new guides, and Florida gardening tips, straight to your inbox. Sign up at rootedinjs.com — no spam, unsubscribe anytime.

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