

Alabama

Gardener's Calendar

January

Fruits and Nuts

- Set out apples, peaches, pears, and grapes.
- Start grafting pecans. Prune dormant trees.

Shrubs

- Plant shrubs and trees, including broadleaf, narrowleaf, and deciduous.
- Graft camellias in south Alabama.
- Spray all deciduous shrubbery with a dormant spray to control diseases and insects.
- Spray when weather is on warming trend.

Lawns

- Soil test before setting up fertility program.

Roses

- Visit nurseries and garden centers to select varieties.
- Start planting.

Annuals and Perennials

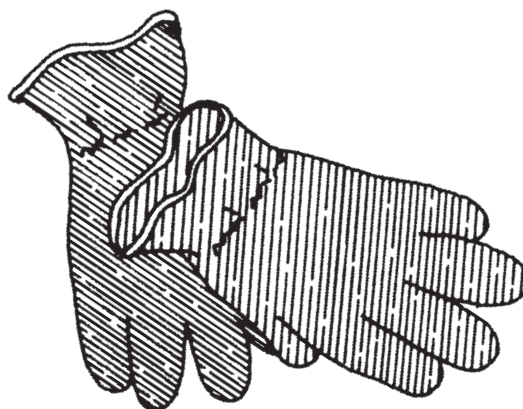
- Plant hardy annuals.

Bulbs

- Late plantings of Dutch bulbs will flower if planted now.
- Lilies of all types, except Madonna, may be planted.
- Check stored bulbs and discard rotten ones.
- Make indoor plantings of amaryllis, callas, and gloxinias.

Miscellaneous

- Prune winter-damaged limbs.
- Give houseplants a bath in lukewarm water to remove dust.



- To keep poinsettias that have finished flowering, turn pots on their sides and let them dry completely.
- Cut them back lightly.
- Keep in a temperature of 55 to 60 degrees.

Vegetable Seed

- Plant hardy vegetables, root crops, roots, and tubers in southern-most areas.
- Plant lettuce, cabbage, and broccoli in cold frames.

Vegetable Plants

- Set out cabbage plants.

February

Fruits and Nuts

- Planting season continues for dormant trees.
- Fertilize fruit trees.
- Apply half of the fertilizer recommended for grapes now; apply the other half soon after fruit sets.
- Continue dormant pruning and grafting. Start strawberry plantings.

Shrubs

- Planting season continues.
- Visit camellia shows to learn of hardy varieties in your area.
- Graft camellias in central and south Alabama.
- Spray all shrubs with a fungicide before new growth starts.
- Good time to prune all shrubs before new growth starts.
- Don't prune early-blooming species because flower buds will be removed.

Roses

- Prune hybrid tea roses in south Alabama; delay pruning for a few weeks in north Alabama.
- Continue planting.

Annuals and Perennials

- Replant early plantings of hardy annuals.
- Prepare beds for summer annuals.

Bulbs

- Plant cannas, amaryllis, gladiolus, and zephyranthes in south Alabama; delay planting for a few weeks in north Alabama.

Miscellaneous

- Houseplants are beginning to show signs of activity.
- Fertilize with liquid or soluble fertilizer according to manufacturer's directions.
- Remember Valentine's Day. Why not send roses or a potted plant?

Vegetable Seed

- Plant some vegetables listed for January in central Alabama plus collards, salsify, and Swiss chard.
- Add tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts to cold frames.

Vegetable Plants

- Plant cabbage, onions, lettuce, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts.

March

Fruits and Nuts

- Continue strawberry and grape plantings.
- Bud apples and peaches.
- Start planting blackberries. Remember, if weather conditions prevent prompt planting, heel the plants in by placing the root system in a trench and covering the soil.

Shrubs

- Fertilize shrubs (except azaleas and camellias) according to a soil test.
- Late plantings may be made, particularly if they are container-grown.
- Watch shrubs for harmful insects.

Lawns

- Plant bermuda, zoysia, and centipede in south Alabama.
- Seed bluegrass and grass mixtures in north Alabama.
- Fertilize established lawns.

Roses

- Watch new growth for aphids.
- Begin a spray or dust program.
- Begin fertilizing.

Annuals and Perennials

- Tender annuals may be planted in south Alabama.
- Check garden centers for bedding plants.

Bulbs

- Plant gladiolus every 2 or 3 weeks if a long blooming season is desired.
- Plant tuberous begonias in pots. Plant dahlias.

Miscellaneous

- Check and repair sprayers, dusters, and lawn mowers.
- Control lawn weeds with chemicals.
- Delay pruning of fruiting shrubs such as cotoneasters, pyracanthas, and hollies until after flowering.

Vegetable Seed

- Plant hardy crops recommended for January and February.
- After danger of frost is past, plant tender vegetables.

Vegetable Plants

- Plant cabbage, onions, lettuce, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts in north Alabama; plant tomatoes and peppers in lower south Alabama.

April

Fruits and Nuts

- Season for strawberry planting continues.
- Start spray program for all fruits.
- Plant raspberries and blackberries and continue budding apples and peaches.

Shrubs

- Prune spring flowering shrubs after flowering.
- Fertilize azaleas and camellias.
- When new growth is half completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

Lawns

- Planting continues.
- New lawns may need supplementary watering.
- Also, fertilize at 3- to 6-week intervals.
- Keep ryegrass cut low, particularly if over-planted on bermuda lawns.

Roses

- Watch for insects and diseases.
- Keep old flower heads removed.
- Plant container-grown plants from nurseries or garden centers.

Annuals and Perennials

- Plant early started annuals or bedding plants from nurseries or garden centers.
- Divide mums or root cuttings. Dig and divide dahlias.

Bulbs

- Plant gladiolus, fancy-leaved caladiums, milk and wine lilies, and ginger and gloriosa lilies.
- Feed bearded iris with superphosphate and spray for borers.

- Avoid cutting foliage of narcissus or other bulbs until it has turned brown naturally.

Miscellaneous

- Spray camellias, hollies, etc., for scale insects.
- Carefully water new plantings of shrubs and trees.
- Pinching out tips of new shoots promotes more compact shrubs.

Vegetable Seed

- Plant tender vegetables such as beans, corn, squash, melons, and cucumbers.
- Plant heat-loving vegetables in lower south Alabama.

Vegetable Plants

- Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, sweet potatoes, and parsley

May

Fruits and Nuts

- Continue spray program.
- Keep grass from around trees and strawberries.
- Peaches and apples can still be budded.

Shrubs

- Newly planted shrubs need extra care now and in coming weeks.
- Don't spray with oil emulsions when temperature is above 85 degrees F.

Lawns

- Now is the best time to start lawns from seed.
- Water new lawns as needed to prevent drying.
- Keep established lawns actively growing by watering, fertilizing, and mowing.
- Spray weeds in lawns with proper herbicide.

Roses

- Spray or dust for insects and diseases.
- Fertilize monthly according to a soil test.
- Container-grown plants in flower may be planted.
- Prune climbing roses after the first big flush of flowering.

Annuals and Perennials

- Late plantings of bedding plants still have time to produce.
- Watch for insects on day lilies.

Bulbs

- Summer bulbs started in containers may still be planted.
- Do not remove foliage from spring flowering bulbs.
- Do not let seedheads form on tulips and other spring flowering bulbs.

Miscellaneous

- Mulch new shrub plantings if not already done.
- Avoid drying out new shrub, tree, and lawn plantings.

Vegetable Seed

- Plant heat-loving and tender vegetables.
- Start cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and celery in cold frames for the fall garden.

Vegetable Plants

- Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and sweet potatoes.

June

Fruits and Nuts

- Layer grapes and continue spray programs.
- Thin apples and peaches if too thick.

Shrubs

- Lace bugs may be a problem on azaleas, pyracanthas, dogwoods, cherry laurels, and other shrubs.
- Water as needed. Fertilize now.
- Keep long shoots from developing by pinching out tips.
- Take cuttings from semi-mature wood for rooting.

Lawns

- Follow a schedule of fertilization and watering.
- Lawns should be mowed weekly.
- Planting may continue if soil is moist.
- Continue weed spraying if necessary.

Annuals and Perennials

- Keep old flower heads removed to promote continued flowering. Plant garden mums if not already in.
- For compact mums, keep tips pinched out.
- Watch for insects and diseases.

Bulbs

- Foliage may be removed from spring bulbs if it has yellowed and is becoming dry.
- Watch for aphids and thrips on summer bulbs.

Miscellaneous

- If scale insects continue on shrubs, use materials other than oils.
- Set houseplants on porch or outdoors in shade and pay close attention to the need for water.
- If desired, air layer houseplants.

Vegetable Seed

- Plant beans, fieldpeas, pumpkins, squash, corn, cantaloupes, and watermelons.

Vegetable Plants

- Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and sweet potato vine cuttings.

July

Fruits and Nuts

- Protect figs and other ripening fruit from birds.

Shrubs

- Continue to root shrub cuttings until late in the month and mulch to keep soil moist.
- Remove faded blooms promptly from crape myrtle and other summer-blooming plants.

Lawns

- Watch for diseases.
- Mow regularly.
- Water as needed.

Roses

- Keep roses healthy and actively growing.
- Apply fertilizer.
- Wash off foliage to prevent burning if any fertilizer falls on plants.

Annuals and Perennials

- Water as needed to keep plants active.

Bulbs

- Iris and spider lilies may be planted late this month.

Miscellaneous

- Keeping flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns healthy is the major task this month.
- This demands close observation for insects and diseases.
- Water.

Vegetable Seed

- Plant beans, field peas, rutabagas, squash, New Zealand spinach, and Irish potatoes.
- Plant cabbage, collards, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and celery for the fall crop.

Vegetable Plants

- Plant tomatoes in central and north Alabama.

August

Fruits and Nuts

- Cut out old blackberry canes after fruiting and then fertilize and cultivate for replacement canes.
- Remember to order new catalogs for fruit selection.

Shrubs

- Layer branches of hydrangea.

Lawns

- Watch for diseases.
- Mow regularly.
- Water as needed.

Roses

- Keep roses healthy and actively growing.
- Hybrid teas and floribundas may need slight pruning to prevent scraggly appearance.

Annuals and Perennials

- Water as needed. Plant perennials and biennials.

Bulbs

- Divide old iris plantings and add new ones.

Miscellaneous

- Keeping flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns healthy is the major task during this month.
- This means close observation for insects and diseases.
- Water.

Vegetable Seed

- Plant turnips, rutabagas, beans, and peas in south Alabama.

Vegetable Plants

- Plant cabbage, collards, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, and celery

September

Fruits and Nuts

- New catalogs will be arriving soon.
- Start plans for future selection and plantings.
- Take soil test for new planting areas.
- Fertilize established strawberry plantings.

Shrubs

- Study landscape to determine plant needs.
- Check early varieties of camellias.
- You may want to replace those damaged in spring by late freezes.
- After fall growth is completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

Lawns

- Plant seed of winter grasses where situation prevents planting permanent grasses.
- Winter seeds will appear soon.
- Stop fertilization three weeks before frost.

Roses

- Protect fall crops of blossoms from aphids and thrips.
- Keep plants healthy.

Annuals and Perennials

- Last chance for planting perennials and biennials.
- Old clumps of perennials may be divided.
- Plant peonies.

Bulbs

- Spring-flowering bulbs may be planted late this month in north Alabama.
- Delay planting in south Alabama.

Miscellaneous

- Clean up infestations of insects on azaleas, camellias, boxwoods, gardenias, hollies, etc.
- If oil spray is needed, don't use in freezing weather.
- Build compost bin or box; leaves will be falling soon.
- Move houseplants indoors.

Vegetable Seed

- Plant hardy vegetables and root crops.

Vegetable Plants

- Plant cabbage, collards, cauliflower, celery, Brussels sprouts, and onion sets.

October

Fruits and Nuts

- Planting season for strawberries starts in south Alabama.
- Clean up orchard area.
- Remove broken limbs, old fruit, and debris from orchard floor.

Shrubs

- Shrub plantings can be made.
- Water when needed.
- Note varieties of camellias in bloom.
- Start mulching all shrubs that do not have a mulch.

Lawns

- Continue to mow lawns until no new growth is noticeable.

Roses

- Continue insect and disease control practices.
- New rose catalogs will be coming in.
- Study closely; add some new varieties to your list.

Annuals and Perennials

- Visit flower shows and gardens.
- List desirable varieties of mums.
- Clean up flower beds immediately after first killing frost.

Bulbs

- Plant tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, crocuses, Dutch irises, anemones, and ranunculuses.
- Watch planting depth. Dig caladiums; clean and store in warm place.

Miscellaneous

- Renew mulch around shrubs and rose beds.
- Loosen mulches that have packed down.
- Spray with oils before freezing weather to kill scale, mites, etc.
- Remove all dead stems and trash from flower beds.
- Transplant into small pots any cuttings taken earlier.

Vegetable Seed

- Plant turnips, mustard, kale, rape, spinach, and onion sets.

November

Fruits and Nuts

- Select sites for plantings.
- Start mulching strawberries, blackberries, and grapes.

Shrubs

- Plant shrubs, trees, and vines.

Lawns

- Have you thought about having a green lawn this winter? It's time to overseed.
- Use proper herbicide to kill germinating winter weeds.

Roses

- Get rose planting underway.
- Use a soil test as a basis for fertilization.
- Look for new varieties.

Annuals and Perennials

- Plant hardy annuals such as larkspur, poppies, pansies, anchusa, and candytuft.
- Get sweet peas into the ground.

Bulbs

- Continue spring bulb planting.
- Put lilies of the valley in a shady place.

Miscellaneous

- Plant screen plantings for privacy on the patio.

Vegetable Seed

- Plant cabbage and lettuce in the cold frame.

December

Fruits and Nuts

- Plant young pecan and other deciduous fruit trees and grapes.
- Select budwood.
- Start dormant pruning of established fruits.
- Protect all young trees from rabbit damage by placing wire around the base of the tree.
- Put on dormant oil spays for scale.

Shrubs

- Planting is still the main activity but delay in case of freezing weather.

Lawns

- Control wild garlic, chickweed, *Poa annua*, dandelion, and other weeds.
- Read label on each package of weed killer used.

Roses

- Add plants to rose garden.
- Mulch all plantings.

Annuals and Perennials

- Plant hardy annual seed without delay. Have you tried violas?

Bulbs

- Continue spring bulb planting.

Miscellaneous

- Shrubs, trees, and indoor plants make excellent gifts.

Plant Groupings

Temperate Fruits and Nuts

- Pecans, peaches, pears, apples, plums, apricots, blueberries, raspberries, gooseberries, blackberries, hickory, walnuts, dewberries, strawberries.

Semi-Tropical Fruits

- Figs, persimmons, pomegranates, mulberries, satsumas, kumquats.

Hardy Annuals

- California poppy, snapdragon, calendula, coreopsis, candytuft, gaillardia, gypsophila, larkspur, poppies, stocks, sweet peas, verbenas, dianthus, pansies.

Half-Hardy Annuals

- Ageratum, alyssum, celosia, phlox, petunia, sunflower, salpiglossis, thunbergia.

Tender Annuals

- Godetia, balsam, nicotiana, portulaca, slavia, zinnia, phlox (Drummond), periwinkle, nasturtium, four o'clock, cockscomb, begonia, coleus, marigold, impatiens.

Hardy Vegetables

- Peas, turnips, mustard, rape, collards, kale, beets, carrots, spinach, onions, radish.

Tender Vegetables

- Butter beans, snap beans, pole beans, squash, field peas, watermelons, cucumbers, cantaloupes, corn, New Zealand spinach.

Heat-Loving Vegetables

- Okra, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, pumpkins, field peas, sweet potatoes.

Roots and Tubers

- Asparagus, horseradish, artichoke, Irish potatoes, onions.

Root Crops

- Beets, carrots, turnips, radish, salsify.

For detailed information on home gardens, these and other publications are available from your county Extension office.

ANR-0006-A, "Home Soil Testing: Taking a Sample"

ANR-0012, "Bunch Grape Culture as a Hobby"

ANR-0053, "Fruit Culture in Alabama"

ANR-0063, "Planting Guide for Home Gardening in Alabama"

ANR-0073, "Centipedegrass"

ANR-0074, "Zoysiagrasses"

ANR-0184, "Annual Bedding Plants"

ANR-0201, "Daylilies"

ANR-0262, "St. Augustinegrass"

ANR-0479, "Alabama Vegetable Gardener"



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