

June

What to Plant . . . Continue to plant heat-tolerant bedding plants. Even these plants prefer some shade. Transplant or plant trees, shrubs and palms now to benefit from the frequent summer rains. When installing plants, make sure they are planted the same depth they were in the container or ground and water lightly but frequently for three or four weeks. **Vegetables:** southern peas, sweet potatoes, cherry tomatoes, peppers and collards.

What's Blooming . . . The yellow **Poinciana**.

What to Prune . . . Prune **crape myrtles** and **gardenias** after blooming to induce them to bloom again. Trim mums when flower buds form to keep them from getting too tall. Keep **cannas** blooming all summer by cutting back the brown tips on the flowering stalks. Cut back the tips of shrubs to form bushier plants. Pinch the dead flowers from bedding plants.

What to Fertilize . . . Fertilize **annuals** every six weeks. For best results, fertilize **Bird of Paradise** every three months with an organic fertilizer. Fertilize **all citrus** with a balanced fertilizer such as 6-6-6 or 8-8-8. Fertilize other **trees** and **shrubs** this month with a 15-5-15 or 15-5-15. Use a 16-4-8 fertilizer with some slow release nitrogen on **lawns** this month.

What to Watch For . . . If **St. Augustine lawn** is turning yellow in spots or responds poorly to watering and fertilization, suspect root damage by **white grub worms**. Check for grubs by cutting three sides of a one-foot square piece of sod about 2 inches deep with a spade or shovel. Lay back the sod and check for white C-shaped grubs. Apply Dursban or Diazinon if 2 or 3 grubs are found per square foot. **Sod webworm** feed on Bermuda and Bahia grasses this time of year. Look for chewed grass blades and treat with BT (*Bacillus Thuringiensis*). Treat **slugs** with a slug bait, setting it down in late evening. Reapply in 14 days. If **mole crickets** have been damaging your lawn, now is the time to treat with baits. To check for mole crickets, pour soupy water on damaged turf and look for their presence. They will move to the top.

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- Distorted and brown speckled **citrus** foliage is probably the result of a disease called melanose. Prune out dead wood and spray with a copper fungicide.
- **Tropical fruits** maturing this time of year include the lychee, mango, jaboticaba, Barbados cherry, grumichama, banana, pineapple, papaya and others. Any of these trees can also be planted now.
- Greasy spot is a fungus that affects all **citrus** leaves but only the fruit of the grapefruit tree. Look for dark spots that show on both sides of the leaves. Spray with

horticultural oil now and again in two weeks. Spray with oil and copper fungicide in October.

- Do not spray any pesticide in the hot sun. Early morning is the best time to treat.