Preparing for Summer

Today on Gardening in a Minute: preparing for summer.

It’s no secret that Florida gets steamy in the summertime, so you should tackle certain gardening chores now, before the weather gets too hot.

Start by cutting back any leggy or overgrown plants, and remove dead or dying branches from trees and shrubs.

If you have yet to fertilize your lawn this year, now is the time to do so. Be sure to follow recommended application rates for your particular grass.

You can inject a splash of color by planting heat-loving annuals like coleus, salvia, torenia, and ornamental pepper.

Harmful insects become more active as the weather warms, so start scouting now for signs of potential pests.

Finally, it’s the dry season. Check your irrigation system to make sure it’s working properly and water as needed according to local watering restrictions.

For more information about this and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.