Express News Tasks

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* It is too early to fertilize the lawn, but consider aeration and top-dressing. Rent an aerator that cuts plugs from the turf and then follow-up by spreading one half inch of compost over the lawn.
* Wintering American goldfinches have been reported in San Antonio neighborhoods. Attract them along with resident lesser goldfinches to your landscape for observation by offering thistle seed in tube feeders. They are colorful and acrobatic.
* Tomato transplants can usually be placed in the garden about mid-March. It takes at least 6 weeks to grow the transplants by seed inside or in the greenhouse so the process needs to be started now.
* Plant recommended varieties of peaches, apples, plums, and pears on 8by 8 ft. raised beds irrigated with drip irrigation if you have caliche or clay soil. Figs, pomegranate, blackberries, citrus, and loquats can be grown on raised beds or in the native soil. Visit plantanswers.com for the list of fruit tree varieties that prosper in the soils, pests, and weather of Central and South Texas.