

## Express News Gardening Tasks

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- It is time to plant tomatoes for the spring. Use semi-determinate varieties like Valley Cat, 444, 602, HM1823, Red Deuce, BHN 968, Phoenix and Tycoon so that they grow to full size and set fruit before it gets too hot.
- In the shade plant pentas, coleus or begonias for summer color. The Texas Superstar “Whopper begonia” is especially showy and easy to grow.
- If you collect the live oak leaves use them for mulch or in the compost pile. They also are valuable to provide organic material if they are allowed to decompose on the lawn. Mow them to speed up the decomposition process.
- For the full sun plant zinnias, cosmos, and vincas for color. Zinnias can be planted with seed or by transplants. They provide color, cut flowers, and nectar for butterflies and hummingbirds. Seed cosmos to provide color in vacant lots or wildflower areas. Vincas are deer-proof. Plant the new fungus resistant transplants.