

Express News Gardening Tasks

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- Plant your fall tomatoes now if you want to produce and mature fruit before the freezing temperatures arrive. Use determinate and semi-determinate varieties because they reach full size quickly and concentrate on producing fruit. Among the best varieties are HM8849, HM1823, Tycoon, Ruby Crush, Roma, BHN 368, Valley Cat, Phoenix, 444, Red Deuce and Celebrity.
- Harvest your okra when it is tender and before the pods become large. Such a plan requires that you harvest every 2 days. If you get behind, harvest the large tough pods and discard them in the compost pile to make room for production of new pods.
- You have choices on your zinnias and cosmos. Harvest the blooms for cut flower bouquets: let some mature seed to attract the seed eating birds; and allow some seeds to drop to the garden bed where they will quickly germinate and produce a new crop.
- There are many hot weather blooming shrubs that are in full bloom and can be planted now without disturbing the bloom. Consider duranta, esperanza, Pride of Barbados, thyrallis, firebush, cape honeysuckle, and Mexican honeysuckle.