Tasks, Express News

Distribute 12-24-2015

* Iris, daylilies, phlox, Shasta daisies, fall asters, liriope, and other perennials can be divided to thin an established bed to improve remaining plant vigor and bloom. Pass along the thinned plants to other gardeners or expand your beds.
* Apply dormant oil to fruit trees according to label instructions to control scale and other wintering insects. Forty eight hours of temperatures above 45 degrees F are required for a safe application.
* Leaves that drop from your deciduous oaks, pecans, and other trees are too valuable as an organic material to bag for the landfill. Use them as mulch, as raw material for the compost pile or just mow them where they lay on the lawn. The decomposing leaf fragments provide organic material and nutrients for the lawn.
* If you pulled tomato plants that showed nematode symptoms, throw the infected roots in the garbage rather than in the compost pile. Consider planting a vigorous rye grass as a nematode trap and green manure for the winter.