Express News Gardening Tasks

Distribute 12-15-2016

* Keep your Holiday tree well watered whether it is a cut tree or a living tree with roots. It is important for fire safety, plant appearance, and in the case of a living tree, a successful transition to the landscape.
* It is still an excellent time to plant shade trees. Consider Texas red oak, cedar elm, Mexican sycamore, bur oak, live oak, Mexican white oak, or chinkapin oak.
* Be prepared to protect cold sensitive plants from freezing temperatures. Cover limes, lemons and cyclamen when temperatures are forecast for 28 degrees or less. Tomatoes and peppers should be protected from temperatures of 32 degrees. Use agricultural fabric or blankets. The tropical container plants should be moved into freeze proof shelter for the winter.
* Even with the colder weather cabbage loopers can still be a problem. Watch for feeding on the foliage of broccoli, cabbage, chard, kale and other greens. Spray with a Bt product. Add 2 teaspoons of dish soap as a spreader.