

## Express News Gardening Tasks

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- Cut back esperanza, poinciana, duranta, lantana, firebush and other root hardy plants where the tops are killed by cold weather to the ground. If the tops are still alive you can cut them back or leave them to grow.
- The lawn requires minimal irrigation during the winter. Remove the controller from automatic to manual mode and only water every 3 weeks if it does not rain.
- For something different in containers on the patio grow a medley of different color leaf lettuces, "Bright Lights" Swiss chard, spinach, green onions, or bluebonnets. All the plants on the list are attractive, easy to grow, and available at area nurseries.
- It is an excellent time of the year to plant shade trees and shrubs. The plants have some time while the soil is moist and temperatures are cool to develop roots before they must face the challenges of summer heat.