

## Express News Gardening Tasks

March 23, 2017

- Tomatoes can now be planted directly into the garden. Use the recommended determinate varieties such as HM 1823, Tycoon, Red Deuce, 444, Phoenix, Celebrity, Valley Cat, and BHN 968. Fertilize with slow release lawn fertilizer (19-6-9) and put each plant in a tomato cage.
- Snapdragons, larkspurs, dianthus and other cool weather annuals will continue to bloom for 6 weeks but zinnias and the hot weather annuals can also be planted if space is available.
- Protect hybrid tea roses and fruit trees such as peaches with a fungicide and insecticide spray every week. Acephate (insects) and triforine (fungus) work well for roses. Consider carbaryl (insects) and Captan (fungus) for fruits. Follow label instructions.
- The winter weeds are serious this spring because of the moisture and mild weather. They can be controlled with contact herbicides. Another option is to handpick the weeds and use them with the live oak leaves on the lawn in a compost pile. The organic material will partially decompose and can be used to enrich your gardens. Visit [plantanswers.com](http://plantanswers.com) for compost pile information.