

Express News Gardening Tasks

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- Each lawn grass does best if mowed at a recommended height. The recommended height for St Augustine is 3.5 inches. Mow Bermuda at 1.5 inches or less. Zoysia does well at 2 inches. Buffalo grass should be mowed at 5 inches or higher to help reduce weed invasion.
- For summer color in the shade plant coleus, penta, caladium, or begonias. For something special try the Texas Super Star Whopper begonias. Impatiens require shade and are planted but they have trouble with hot weather.
- For maximum production and minimum damage from birds, insects and other pests keep your tomatoes picked as they show a color change to orange or red. They will finish ripening in the house.
- To increase butterfly activity in the yard plant both nectar and caterpillar plants. Consider zinnias, porter weed, mistflower, and milkweed for nectar. Passion vine, sunflowers, citrus, dill, milkweed, and flame acanthus are favorite egg-laying sites. Minimize and localize applications of insecticides to limit impact on butterflies.