

Express News Gardening Tasks

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- If you keep your Holiday poinsettia out of drafts, away from heat ducts, protected from freezing temperatures, and well-watered, it should look good in the house for 4 months. Visit plantanswers.com for instructions on using ice cubes for maintaining moisture levels.
- Consider decorating a tree for Christmas that has been sheared for the purpose but still has its roots and can be planted in the landscape after the Holidays. Aleppo pines, Italian stone pines, Deodora cedar, blue point juniper, and Arizona cypress work well.
- It is still a good time to plant cool weather vegetables and flowers. Consider spinach, onions, broccoli, carrots, lettuce, beets, pansies, cyclamen, calendula, primula, dianthus, alyssum, and sweet peas.
- Control fire ants within close vicinity to your activities with a fast-acting insecticide with acephate or spinosad. For more remote mounds use a bait such as Amdro. Follow label instructions.