

## Express News Gardening Tasks

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- It is time to plant peppers and okra in the garden. Okra is usually planted by seed, but transplants are available. Use peppers in the raised bed garden and in containers. Jalapeno are the most common hot pepper to grow and banana pepper is a mild crispy variety for salads and fresh eating.
- It is normal for milkweeds to host an orange aphid and a beetle. The plants prosper despite the infestations and the use of pesticides is not practical because of the threat to the Monarchs and other butterflies that are the desired users of the plants. Tolerate their presence.
- If you want the wildflowers such as bluebonnets, coreopsis, and poppies to re seed and return next spring, the seed must be allowed to mature and drop to the soil. The wildflower bed can not be mowed until the seeds have matured.
- For hot weather bloom production in full sun plant the woody perennials esperanza, thyrallis, poinciana, firebush, and duranta. All but duranta and poinciana are deer-proof in most settings.