

Express News Gardening Tasks

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- If your tomato plants are infected with spider mites it is probably time to harvest all large fruit and pull the plants. The tomatoes will finish ripening on the kitchen counter. Put the infested plants in a garbage sack and dispose of them in the garbage. Plant fall tomatoes in July.
- In many landscapes shade trees planted 20 or more years ago are providing so much shade that the lawn is not prospering. Replace the sparse lawn grass with drought tolerant ground covers like lirioppe, monkey grass, Asiatic jasmine or dwarf ruellia.
- Brown areas in the lawn can be caused by grubs, chinch bugs, fungus, and lack of water. Determine if it is a lack of water by hand-watering a test area every other day for a week. The area should green up if it is a water issue. To check for grubs, dig up a square foot of the sod. Three or four grubs will be in the soil of the sod if they are causing the problem. If the brown area is in the hottest part of the lawn and the extra water did not green it up, treat with a soil insecticide for chinch bugs. A soil fungicide will stop the spread of the brown patch fungal disease.
- Soak your okra seed over night in water before planting them for a higher germination rate. Discard the seed that floats in favor of the seed that settles to the bottom of the vessel.