

## Express News Gardening Tasks

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- Watch for the availability of Surefire and Roma Surprise tomatoes for fall planting. They produce tennis ball size fruit that mature quickly to beat the cold temperatures.
- The Bermuda grass has taken off again with the rain and is invading the shrub borders and gardens. Control it with one of the contact herbicides for grassy weeds. Products like Grass-be - Gone, Ornamec, Poast, Fusilade, and Over-the Top can be sprayed in most situations without injuring the broad-leaf ornamental plants. Follow label instructions.
- Watch your relatively newly planted shrubs and trees. With dry hot weather they may wilt because the unexpanded root ball has dried out. Water at the base at the first sign of wilting.
- Deadhead zinnias, esperanza, and crape myrtles to encourage new flower buds. It is not clear if cutting off the seed pods of the poinciana will stimulate new blooms, but it is worth an experiment. Compare the bloom response of a poinciana from which you removed the seed pods to one you left intact.