

Express News Gardening Tasks

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- It is a good time to start a winter bird feeding program that will supplement the plants that provide cover, berries, seeds, and insects in your landscape. Use suet to bring in the insect eating birds for observation. Sunflower seeds are a favorite of the seed eaters. Thistle seed is a special favorite of the goldfinches.
- With the growth of lush foliage slugs and snails are infesting area gardens in large numbers. If the leaves of your low-growing plants show feeding damage and no caterpillars are visible, apply a slug and snail bait.
- It is time to plant spinach, pansies, cyclamen, and primula. They are sensitive to hot spells in the fall. The chance of a hot spell is greatly reduced once we move into November. Prepare the soil with 2 inches of compost and 10 cups of slow release lawn fertilizer per 100 sq. ft. of bed.
- When soils became saturated from the rains, fire ant mounds are moved up in the soil and become more obvious. It is a good time to apply a mound treatment with an active ingredient of Spinosad or acephate to the mounds close to the garden and other activities.