

## Express News Gardening Tasks

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- Allow the leaves that have fallen to decompose on the lawn. They provide organic material and nutrients to the grass. They will decompose faster if you run the mower over them. Leaves can also be used as mulch or as raw material for the compost pile.
- It is an excellent time to plant shade trees. They have time for some root development before they face the challenges of a San Antonio summer. CPS customers can take advantage of the shade tree rebate. Shade trees planted in the right locations shade the house and reduce energy use for cooling by as much as 25 %.
- Check your citrus and other fruit trees for scale insects. They suck the juices from the plant and reduce vigor. Control scale by applying dormant oil to the stems and foliage. Dormant oil will also control aphids and other insects that hide in the bark. Apply the diluted dormant oil to the plants when the forecast calls for 2 days in a row with temps over 45 degrees. Follow label instructions.
- Cut Vine and Stump Killer works even on dormant hackberries, Chinaberries, and other weed trees. Prune them out of your garden beds and fence lines and then apply the product to the cut. It will penetrate the trunk into the roots and stop re-sprouting.