

Express News Gardening Tasks

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- Remember to fertilize your cool weather flowers and vegetables as the winter progresses. Use Osmocote or soluble fertilizer dissolved in water for containers. "Winterizer or slow-release lawn fertilizer works well for garden plants.
- Watch for purple martins "scouting" your birdhouses. If you see them in your neighborhood it is time to put the houses up. If no martins visit before March 1, I recommend that the houses go up anyway. English sparrows may claim some of the apartments but there is usually room for both species.
- Prune your fruit trees, roses, and the plants that suffered freeze damage. Plantanswers.com has written instructions and diagrams to assist you. If you prune your oak tree paint the wounds with pruning paint or latex paint immediately after the cuts are made to prevent oak wilt.
- Onions and potatoes can still be planted in the vegetable garden. Place the onions in a row from 2 to 6 inches apart. At the closer distance the middle plant will have to be used as a green onion to make room for full bulb development of the remaining plants. Plant pieces of potato in a trench one foot deep with 18 inches spacing. Cover the pieces with three inches of soil and then gradually fill the trench as the stems emerge.