

Express News Gardening Tasks

- If your lawn was green all winter and now is fading, do not fertilize to green it up. The lawn weeds are declining in the spring warm-up. Wait until you have mowed real grass twice before you fertilize. It may be as late as May 1.
- Use the live oak leaves that have fallen as mulch or raw material for the compost pile. They are also a valuable source of organic material if you let them decompose on the lawn. Run the mower over them to speed up the decomposition.
- Tomatoes can be planted in the garden now. Prepare the soil with 2 inches of compost and 10 cups of slow-release lawn fertilizer per 100 sq. ft of bed. Plant them 3 feet apart in full sun and support the plant with a tomato cage.
- To produce blemish free fruit, spray your plums and peaches each week with an insecticide such as malathion and a fungicide such as Captan. Organic gardeners can try products such as pyrethrin, neem oil, and sulfur.