

Express News Gardening Tasks

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- Be ready to apply a Bt product like Thuricide, Bio-Worm Killer or Dipel to your broccoli and other cabbage related crops if you see damage caused by green caterpillars (cabbage loopers) on the foliage. Follow label instructions.
- If you are placing new plants in areas frequented by deer spray them with a repellent such as Liquid Fence to discourage resident deer from chewing on or pulling up the plants. Deer out of curiosity or maybe orneriness often test the new plants even if they are on a deer-proof list.
- It is a good time to plant onions and spinach in the vegetable garden. Prepare the soil with 2 inches of compost and 10 cups of slow-release lawn fertilizer and be prepared to side dress the plants with a fertilizer every 3 weeks after planting.
- Your favorite nursery may have a good selection of Holiday plants such as Christmas cactus, phalaenopsis orchids, paperwhite, cyclamen, and amaryllis on sale now that the Christmas rush is over. Most have a long bloom period with simple care instructions. See plantanswers.com.