

Express News Gardening Tasks

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- It is still a good time to fertilize your lawn with a slow-release lawn fertilizer like 19-5-9 if the permanent grass has responded to the heat and rain and is growing strongly.
- Some of the early peaches such as Florida King are ripening now. They are ready to harvest when the green background color changes to yellow. If you did not maintain a spray program, they probably have a few stinkbug hits but are still a tasty treat. Keep spraying the later ripening varieties. Follow label instructions.
- Some gardeners shift their emphasis from seed and suet feeding to adding more birdbaths and hummingbird feeders during the summer. Adding a water circulating mechanism to a birdbath is inexpensive and effective. Some are even solar powered.
- For cut flowers in the summer garden grow Zinnias such as Dreamland, Profusion, California Giant, and Cactus selections. Cactus and California Giant are easy to grow from seed. Zinnias are also favorite nectar sources for butterflies and hummingbirds.