

Express News Gardening Tasks

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- For perennial color in full sun consider firebush, 'Gold Star' esperanza, duranta, thyrallis, and poinciana. Deer do not eat esperanza, poinciana, and thyrallis in most neighborhoods. All the plants freeze back most winters but rebloom every summer.
- Cut down live oak suckers growing from the parent tree roots with a lawn mower or string mower. Because of the small diameter of the stems there is no danger from oak wilt.
- Recommended mowing heights are 3.5 inches for St Augustine grass, 2 inches for zoysia, and 1.5 inches or less for Bermuda grass. Schedule the mowing so you do not remove more than one third of the blade per mowing. It usually translates to mowing once/week.
- Meet the birds need for water and attract large number of individuals for observation by providing one or more bird baths. Attach a solar powered, electrical or drip recycled water mechanism to really bring in the species. The bird baths will have to be refilled every day.