

Express News Gardening Tasks

Distribute April 9,2020

- If cucumber beetles are eating the blooms on your fruit trees and new foliage on pepper plants and other flowers or vegetables, they can be sprayed with an insecticide with Spinosad as an active ingredient.
- To reduce mosquito numbers, empty out any remnant water containers such as unused buckets, pet dishes, and discarded cans where the adults will lay eggs. Use a mosquito dunk for storage barrels and non-circulating ponds. Avoid general insecticide sprays over a large area in favor of targeted sprays. Also check out the new contact control options offered by some pest control services.
- The rust colored specks on the underside of snapdragon leaves is the fungal disease rust. There is no effective treatment. The plants will cease blooming and wilt. Dispose of the plants in the compost pile and replace the snaps with zinnias or another hot weather annual.
- If you want your wildflowers to germinate and bloom again next year they must be allowed to mature and drop their seed. Be patient and seek out summer blooming plants such as bee balm, *Salvia coccinea* and cosmos to decorate the growing area during the seed production period of bluebonnets and other early blooming wildflowers.