

Express News Gardening Tasks

- Leaves are valuable organic material. Use them for mulch in the shrub border or as raw material for the compost pile. The least difficult action is to let them decompose on the lawn to provide organic material for the grass. Speed up the decomposition by mowing the leaves as they lay on the lawn.
- Plant cool weather annuals to provide color for the landscape over the winter. In the sun use snapdragons, along with dianthus, ornamental kale, ornamental cabbage, pansies, petunias, and calendula. In the shade cyclamen are very showy.
- If your lawn is shady and is dominated by grassy weeds or horse herb consider mowing it every 2 weeks and enjoying a sustainable winter lawn that looks good and does not use much water as a replacement for fighting a futile battle against the weeds.
- Plant spinach transplants in the vegetable garden and the tomatoes should be ready to begin harvesting. They can be carried into the house when they show any color change to try and stay ahead of the birds. Side dress the garden with “winterizer” lawn fertilizer such as 18-6-12.