Express News Tasks

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* If you have shade trees growing on thin soils they may be dropping leaves now because the trees cannot support the same amount of leaves during a dry period as in a wet period. The trees will be fine. Mow the leaves along with the grass.
* Restore the mulch layers around newly planted trees and in gardens. Use leaves, shredded brush, pecan shells or whatever material is available. In addition to reducing water evaporation the mulch keeps the soil cool and reduces weed germination.
* Maintain nutrient levels for plants in containers by applying a slow-release granular fertilizer such as Osmocote and/or apply a soluble fertilizer such as Miracid or Peters dissolved in water as part of your irrigation regime.
* Plant tomatoes for the fall crop after adding 2 inches of compost and 5lbs of slow release lawn fertilizer to 100 sq. ft. of bed. Consider fast maturing and heat setting varieties.