

## Express News Gardening Tasks

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- Fertilize the lawn in early October with a “Winterizer” formula such as 18-6-12. The nutrients from the fall fertilization are important to providing winter hardiness and a fast green-up in the Spring. The application of the fertilizer will not stimulate winter lawn growth.
- It is time to spread wildflower seeds. Select a site in full sun where the seed can make contact with the soil. That means avoid fields with deep weedy growth and/or sod. Raking the soil before the seed is spread may enhance the germination rate but is not necessary.
- The fall is an excellent time to plant trees and shrubs. Planted now they have an opportunity to develop a root system before they must face the summer heat. Water the new plants in well and cover the root area with mulch.
- Iris bloom best if they are thinned out every 3 or 4 years. Replant the rhizomes 18 inches apart so that the top of the rhizome is level with the ground surface. Distribute the extra rhizomes to gardening acquaintances who want a deer-proof, drought -tolerant, blooming groundcover for full sun.